

- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Cllr John Burton
Cllr Izzi Seccombe
- 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 A report to a future meeting of Cabinet considering the appropriate next steps
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee – 21st September 2005

Provision of school places – Stratford-upon-Avon town

Report of the County Education Officer

Recommendation:

That:

- (1) the report on the provision of school places in Stratford town be noted
- (2) the position with regard to school places in primary schools continues to be monitored
- (3) further work be undertaken to explore the options for meeting the future demand for secondary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon and that the outcome be reported to Cabinet and the Stratford Area Committee at the appropriate time.

1. Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the position with regard to the provision of primary and secondary school places in Stratford-upon-Avon. Stratford is one of two areas of Warwickshire offering selective education. Currently, at the primary phase, the town is served by eight schools, including St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School and three Church of England Voluntary Controlled schools. At the secondary phase, King Edward VI Grammar School, which makes provision for boys, and Stratford Girls' Grammar School serve the town and the whole South Warwickshire area. Stratford and the surrounding area are also served by one secondary school, Stratford High School, which is a specialist Maths College.
- 1.2 Stratford has attracted significant numbers of new houses and is 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. At the secondary education phase, both grammar schools have increased the number of pupils admitted and Stratford High School has recently increased its admission limit.

1.3 There are plans for further housing development. However, 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. While the County Council uses an accepted formula to calculate the number of pupils that may result from any new housing, this can vary not least 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 Stratford-on-Avon District Council is currently reviewing plans for housing development and this could have a significant impact on the number of new houses to be built and the timing of those developments.

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 2005.

Table 1

Number of primary school pupils on roll and school capacities as at September 2005
(source: individual schools)

| School | Capacity | NOR Sep.2005 | Rec | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | PAN |
|--|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Alveston C of E Primary | 140 | 117 | 15 | 13 | 20 | 19 | 16 | 9 | 25 | 20 |
| Bishopton Primary | 154 | 130 | 12 | 22 | 24 | 20 | 15 | 21 | 16 | 22 |
| Bridge Town Primary | 315 | 302 | 38 | 51 | 39 | 48 | 43 | 47 | 36 | 45 |
| Shottery St. Andrew's C of E Primary | 70 | 68 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 10 |
| St .Gregory's Catholic (Aided) Primary | 210 | 221 | 30 | 30 | 31 | 27 | 32 | 35 | 36 | 30 |
| Stratford Primary | 210 | 236 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 32 | 34 | 32 | 48 | 30 |
| The Willows C of E Primary | 280 | 268 | 40 | 38 | 38 | 37 | 45 | 33 | 37 | 40 |
| Thomas Jolyffe Primary | 315 | 360 | 54 | 47 | 52 | 50 | 56 | 50 | 51 | 45 |
| Total | 1,694 | 1,702 | 227 | 241 | 244 | 239 | 254 | 236 | 261 | 242 |

2.2 Although the total number of pupils on roll as at September 2005 indicates that schools are operating at full capacity, it should also be noted that:

- only two primary schools are shown as operating above their physical capacity, Stratford Primary School and Thomas Jolyffe Primary School. In the case of Stratford Primary School, the main cause is the large Year 6 class of 48 pupils and this year group will leave in 2006. With regard to Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, three additional classrooms have

recently been added to the school and this is not yet reflected in the school's capacity, although it did enable the school to admit 54 pupils to reception in September 2005.

- A number of additional pupils living in the town as a result of new housing have already been accommodated in Stratford schools.
- In relation to September 2005 admissions to reception year groups, all primary schools were able to offer places to all applicants from within their own priority area and any siblings. In fact, the majority of primary schools in Stratford were able to admit all applicants to the reception year group.

However, it is accepted that there have been few spare school places to provide flexibility in available provision.

3. Projected primary school pupil numbers up to 2009/10

- 3.1 The demographic trend, based on the latest live birth data, for Stratford indicates that the underlying pupil population may fall by 79 pupils up to September 2009. However, plans for new housing developments in the town suggest that approximately 970 new houses may be built up to 2009. It is calculated that on this basis, 168 pupils could be added to the primary school population.
- 3.2 A list of major housing developments in Stratford and a map showing their locations is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- 3.3 The new housing developments, including those occurring after 2009, will need to be monitored carefully. The most significant development after 2009 is earmarked for the Shottery area, where some 660 dwellings are planned. It is intended that the current Shottery C of E Primary School be enlarged and re-located to the new estate with a contribution from developers towards the cost.
- 3.4 In response to an anticipated increase in the demand for primary school places in the town, additional classrooms have been added to Bishopton Primary School, The Willows C of E (Controlled) Primary School, Bridge Town Primary School and Thomas Jolyffe Primary School. These additional classrooms and improvements to other schools in the town have been financed mainly from Section 106 developer contributions. The resultant increase in the total capacity of primary schools in Stratford from the current 1,684 places to 1,826 places is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Forecast numbers of pupils up to 2009/10, including expected rise in pupil numbers resulting from housing development* and forecast school capacity also up to 2009

| Year: | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Demographic forecast | 1,646 | 1,631 | 1,593 | 1,567 |
| Housing | 67 | 101 | 134 | 168 |
| Total demand | 1,713 | 1,732 | 1,727 | 1,735 |
| Capacity | 1,826 | 1,826 | 1,826 | 1,826 |
| Surplus | 113 | 94 | 99 | 91 |

* This table assumes that housing built up to 2009 is developed at a steady rate throughout the period.

- 3.5 On the basis of the demographic and new housing information available, it is estimated that sufficient primary school places are available up to at least 2009. The forecast also indicates a small margin of surplus which may be helpful in providing some flexibility given the variables involved in forecasting and particularly potential variations in plotting the impact of new housing. However, there may continue to be difficulties in accommodating pupils in some year groups of some primary schools.

4. Overview of school places in secondary schools

- 4.1 Stratford High School is an 11-19 school and the only high school serving Stratford. The school moved into its current, new building in the autumn of 2002. However since the school was designed, the amount of housing development in Stratford has grown significantly and a much higher proportion of families living in the school's priority area have expressed a preference for admission. In recent years, these two factors have resulted in the school being oversubscribed in Year 7 and in there being pressure for admission to most other year groups. The admission number for Stratford High School will be formally increased from 203 pupils per year to 240 pupils per year with effect from September 2006, in line with its newly assessed capacity. The new admission limit will only apply to Year 7 groups as they enter the school from that date. Stratford High School has a thriving sixth form and strong collaborative arrangements with other post-16 providers in Stratford including Stratford College, Stratford Girls' Grammar School and King Edward VI School.
- 4.2 King Edward VI Grammar School and Stratford Girls' Grammar School serve the town of Stratford and the whole of South Warwickshire. Due to the operation of the Greenwich Judgement these grammar schools are also required to consider applications from some areas outside South Warwickshire which qualify as being the same distance from the schools as the furthest point of South Warwickshire. The admission limit for each of these two schools was increased by the Schools Adjudicator from 60 to 75 pupils per year with effect from September 2004. Both schools admit pupils according to ability and are heavily oversubscribed. Of the 140 pupils to be admitted to the two grammar

schools in September 2005, a total of 40 are understood to live in Stratford. Table 3 below sets out the latest information available concerning the number of pupils on roll in September 2005.

Table 3
Number of secondary school pupils on roll and school capacities
as at September 2005

| School | Capacity | NOR Sep.2005 | Y7 | Y8 | Y9 | Y10 | Y11 | Y12 | Y13 |
|---|--------------|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Stratford High School, a Maths & Computing Specialist College | 1,212 | 1,302 | 242* | 232 | 212 | 215 | 216 | 86 | 99 |
| King Edward VI Boys' Grammar School | 569 | 479 | 70 | 81 | 63 | 64 | 71 | 76 | 52 |
| Stratford Girls' Grammar School, a Specialist Language College ** | 578 | 525 | 70 | 71 | 66 | 74 | 74 | 95 | 81 |
| Total | 2,359 | 2,306 | 382 | 384 | 341 | 353 | 361 | 257 | 232 |

* Includes successful appeals to Year 7 in September 2005.

** Predicted numbers as at July 2005.

- 4.3 The capacity of Stratford High School is now calculated at 1,481 places and following a statutory consultation process in 2004/05, this figure will be reflected in the higher admission number of 240 pupils per year from September 2005.
- 4.4 While Stratford High School has consistently admitted to Year 7 all pupils expressing a preference for the school and living within its priority area or having a sibling at the school, applications for places at the school outside the normal admissions cycle or to other year groups cannot necessarily be satisfied. The law does not allow the Council to reserve places to provide for "casual admissions", i.e. those who move into the area and seek admission.
- 4.5 At the time of drafting this report, admissions to Year 7 for September 2005 indicate that Stratford High will admit 242 pupils to Year 7, including all applicants within the priority area, all pupils with a sibling and living outside the school's priority area and some pupils admitted as a result of successful appeals.
- 4.6 In addition, it is understood that King Edward VI Grammar School and Stratford Girls' Grammar School are expected to be admitting 70 pupils each.

5. Meeting the demand for secondary school places

5.1 Table 4 below illustrates the demographic trend in the Stratford High School priority area up to 2014 and the possible level of excess demand for places.

Table 4

| Year: | 2004/ 05 | 2005/ 06 | 2006/ 07 | 2007/ 08 | 2008/ 09 | 2009/ 10 | 2010/ 11 | 2011/ 12 | 2012/ 13 | 2013/ 14 | 2014/ 15 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Demographic forecast | 229 | 232 | 234 | 217 | 234 | 227 | 221 | 222 | 219 | 195 | 211 |
| Housing (developments 50 dwellings and larger) | | 4 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| Shottery development | | | | | | | | 4 | 9 | 13 | 17 |
| Housing (developments 49 dwellings and smaller) | | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| Total demand | 229 | 237 | 245 | 233 | 255 | 254 | 253 | 260 | 263 | 245 | 267 |
| PAN | 203 | 203 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 |

5.2 While the demographic trend indicates that secondary pupil numbers will remain stable through until at least 2012, the additional places arising from further new housing developments included in the current district planning return (2005) indicate that even with the increase in Stratford High School's capacity expected from 2006, there may be a shortfall of approximately 15 places by 2008.

5.3 Most of the predicted shortfall in places could be met by the provision of additional specialist accommodation, currently being discussed with Stratford High School. The need for the new specialist accommodation arose out of the consultation earlier this year to increase the school's admission number from 203 places to 240 places from 2006. It is estimated that this specialist accommodation could further increase the number of places to up to 257 pupils per year. This increase too would be subject to further formal consultations.

5.4 It is also likely that some of the additional pupils resulting from new housing will gain admission to the two grammar schools but it is difficult to say whether and to what extent this would be at the expense of existing pupils living in Stratford or those in the rest of the grammar schools' admission area. There are no plans currently to expand the two grammar schools and this is also the policy of central government.

5.5 If additional school places were required, there would be two main options;

5.4.1 Option 1 – expand Stratford High School

In order to meet the likely demand for places, it is estimated that Stratford High School would need to be expanded from its current 240 places per year to 270

places per year over the next nine years. While it is considered that there is some scope for further expansion on the site and some additional provision of specialist accommodation is already planned, it is likely to be limited in scope and there would need to be a full feasibility study carried out. In the event that further classrooms could be provided, there would be additional pressure on circulation space and other ancillary areas that are less easily addressed. The provision of additional accommodation would also involve significant capital investment and such expenditure would have to compete with other priorities at a time when the Department for Education and Skills is making funding available for the Building Schools for the Future initiative. Further, responses to the consultation regarding raising the admission limit to 240 revealed concerns by governors and some parents about the size of the school even at 1,580 places.

5.4.2 Option 2 – reduce the priority area of Stratford High School

Stratford High School has an extensive priority area beyond the town of Stratford. By reducing the priority area of the school it is possible to reduce the number of pupils who have a priority claim for a place at the school. The process would require careful planning and extensive formal public consultation. It would also be necessary to consider the impact on other secondary schools and primary schools in the area. It is likely that other schools would benefit from such changes and the cost would be lower than expanding Stratford High School further. However, there may be some additional revenue costs in terms of home-to-school transport and not all parents may welcome a change to the priority area of a popular school. Also, the geography of the area concerned does not lend itself easily to such a change as there are few significant centres of population, in terms of size, outside the town itself.

Given the number of variables involved in the forecast, not least of which would be the impact of new housing, Members may consider that it would be appropriate to monitor the situation at present and bring forward proposals at a time which would nevertheless allow for full further discussion and consultation.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 At present there are sufficient primary school and secondary school places planned to meet overall demand. However, although the additional demand for school places resulting from new housing has been largely met to date, it is accepted that 'in year' applications for places to some schools may be not always be met. The further primary school places already in train should be sufficient to meet known demand up to the current planning period of 2009.
- 7.2 In the secondary sector, Stratford High School has had its capacity increased and although a further small increase may be possible, in the medium term it is forecast that some further places will be needed. The main options appear to be either to add further accommodation in the future or to reduce the size of the school's priority area.

7.3 The impact of new housing, particularly in the longer term, continues to make accurate forecasting on longer timescales most difficult.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to note this report.

8.2 The position with regard to school places in primary schools continues to be monitored.

8.3 Further work is undertaken to explore the options for meeting the future demand for secondary school places in Stratford and that the outcome is reported to Cabinet and the Stratford Area Committee at the appropriate time.

ERIC WOOD
County Education Officer

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Warwick

9th September 2005

Table A1
Housing developments at sites in Stratford-upon-Avon
of 50 dwellings or larger

| Map symbol key | Developments of 50 or more dwellings | Site capacity | Total built to April 2005 | Expected future building | Expected number of pupils per year group to come | School priority area | |
|----------------|--|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Land between Evesham Road and Alcester Road, Shottery (near Anne Hathaway's Cottage) | 660 | 0 | 660 | 17 | Shottery St. Andrew's C of E | Stratford High |
| 2 | Bridgetown Farm, Banbury Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 760 | 460 | 300 | 8 | Bridge Town | Stratford High |
| 3 | Site of N.C. Joseph Factory (Phases 1 & 2), Birmingham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 156 | 0 | 156 | 4 | Thomas Jolyffe | Stratford High |
| 4 | The Avenue, Area H7, Birmingham Road, Bishopton | 270 | 124 | 146 | 4 | Thomas Jolyffe | Stratford High |
| 5 | Cattle Market, Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 110 | 0 | 110 | 3 | Bridge Town | Stratford High |
| 6 | Site of Commercial Premises, Regal Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 75 | 0 | 75 | 2 | Thomas Jolyffe | Stratford High |
| 7 | Gardens, r/o Evesham Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 70 | 0 | 70 | 2 | The Willows | Stratford High |
| 8 | Former Marie Corelli School, Scholars Gate, Drayton Avenue, Stratford-upon-Avon | 61 | 0 | 61 | 2 | The Willows | Stratford High |
| 9 | Stratford-upon-Avon High School, Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 155 | 125 | 30 | 1 | The Willows | Stratford High |
| 10 | Land south-west of Birmingham Road, Bishopton | 81 | 59 | 22 | 1 | Bishopton | Stratford High |
| 11 | Land to west and north, The Ridgeway and Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon | 84 | 84 | 0 | 0 | The Willows | Stratford High |

Map A1
Showing sites of housing developments at sites in Stratford-upon-Avon
of 50 dwellings or larger (attached)