

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee**                      **Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee**

**Date of Committee**                      **15<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Report Title**                                      **Change to Indicated Admission  
Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary  
School, Stratford**

**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 Thomas Jolyffe School, Stratford, 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
- Stratford Area Committee report 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005 (Provision of school places – Stratford town)
- Cabinet report 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**                      Details to be specified

- Other Committees                       .....
- Local Member(s)                       Cllr Jill-Russell – Stratford Avenue & New Town
- 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
- 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  6<sup>th</sup> April 2006
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

## Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006

### Change to Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School

#### 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 Cabinet on the proposal to change the Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, Stratford.

## **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 Thomas Jolyffe Primary School wishes to increase its admission number from 45 to 60 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Thomas Jolyffe is a community primary school and currently has an admission number of 45 pupils per year which is based upon an assessed capacity of 315, as measured in 2002.
- 3.2 Thomas Jolyffe Primary School serves mainly the northern part of Stratford. The town of Stratford has grown significantly in recent years, with the increased population resulting in a higher demand for school places in the eight primary schools located close to and within the town. It is forecast that some 970 houses will be built in the town between 2006 and 2009. Developments at Birmingham Road, Bishopton, are close to the school and the increase in new houses generally has led to a rise in demand for pupil places at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School in recent years and the expectation that this demand is likely to increase as new housing is built.
- 3.3 Table 1 below shows the numbers on roll at this school over the last five years and illustrates both the high demand for places at the school in the period 2001/05 as well as an increase in pupils on roll in the year 2005/06 as the additional space from the new buildings at the school becomes available:

**Table 1**  
**Number of pupils on roll at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School**

	School Year				
	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (Feb.06)
Pupils on roll	323	317	323	321	371

- 3.4 Thomas Jolyffe Primary School currently organises on two classes per year group. The numbers in each class are shown in Table 2:

**Table 2**  
**Class sizes at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (1.2.06)**

School Year	Class 1	Class 2	Total
Reception	29	28	57
Year 1	24	26	50
Year 2	26	28	54
Year 3	23	25	48
Year 4	29	29	58
Year 5	27	24	51
Year 6	27	26	53

- 3.5 As part of the County Council's strategy for meeting the demand for primary school places in the town, three additional classrooms have been added to the school. A single classroom has been built on to the junior school and a two-classroom extension, larger staffroom and additional toilet facilities have been added to the infant building.

- 3.6 These changes to the buildings at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School have had the planned result of increasing the net capacity of the school from 315 pupils to 406 pupils (according to a new survey of the physical space of the school and the application of Department for Education and Skills Guidance Circular 0739/2001). This new capacity converts to an IAN of 58 pupils per year.

## 4. The proposal

- 4.1 The school wishes to set a PAN of 60, slightly in excess of its capacity, for organisational reasons.
- 4.2 An increase in the admission number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School would enable the school to provide for some of the additional pupils that will result from new housing in the town.
- 4.3 If approved, a PAN of 60 pupils will apply to admissions to Thomas Jolyffe Primary School from September 2007 onwards.

## 5. Results of the consultation

- 5.1 A consultation paper was sent to all parents of pupils at Thomas Jolyffe 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 6<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> February.
- 5.2 A total of ten responses to the consultation have been received. A copy of all responses has been placed in the Members' group rooms and a summary is given below.
- 5.3 The proposal is supported by letters from Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council and Welcombe Hills School both stating that the increased admission limit would provide additional school places to meet the demand arising from new housing in Stratford. The governing body of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School also confirmed its support for the proposal for an admission number of 60 pupils, which will create a fully 'two form' entry school.
- 5.4 Concerns about the proposal have been raised by Shottery C of E Primary School and six parents of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School.

**The Headteacher of Shottery C of E Primary School is concerned that increasing the number of places at other schools in Stratford will take pupils away from smaller schools like Shottery C of E Primary School, leading to closure 'by the back door'.**

### *Comment*

*The strategic overview of school place planning in Stratford town was reported to the Area Committee in September 2005. The report concluded that, despite*

*a falling birth rate in the town, the impact of new housing would mean an overall increase in the school population due to the impact of new housing. The report also indicated that even with the plans for additional school places, including those at Thomas Jolyffe School featured in this proposal, there would only be in the region of 5% surplus places in primary schools. The report confirmed as well that the County Council wished to enlarge Shottery C of E Primary School and re-locate it on a proposed new housing development in the town.*

*It is the case that Shottery C of E Primary School had two spare places for admissions to reception for September 2006 but this is a popular school.*

5.5 The issues raised by six parents included:

**Why has the admission number of 47 been exceeded in a number of year groups? Would a higher number of 60 be adhered to?**

*Comment*

*Following the completion of the three new classrooms, the school decided to staff those rooms and has already adjusted its internal organisation. A temporary increase in admission numbers was agreed in order for the school to manage higher demand from new housing.*

**Will there be more teachers and teaching assistants as a result of the change?**

*Comment*

*Yes. The school is able to organise in 14 single aged classes and fund a classroom assistant in every class.*

**Thirty pupils in a class is too many. Will higher numbers mean more stress on teachers?**

*Comment*

*The infant class size legislation limits all infant classes to a maximum of 30 pupils. It is intended that neither the infant nor junior classes will have more than 30 pupils per class, whereas in the past junior classes of up to 39 pupils had been necessary. Thirty pupils is considered an acceptable class size. Recent research suggested that lower class sizes did not yield a significant improvement in pupil attainment until classes reached as low as 14 pupils.*

**Are the organisational reasons quoted for admitting 60 pupils per year, rather than the 58 indicated by the new capacity, merely financial ones?**

*Comment*

*Essentially yes. Class sizes of 29 have no measurable advantage over classes of 30 pupils but with each pupil being funded, there is a marginal advantage after books and other learning materials are taken into account.*

**Will the increased number of pupils pose a risk to current pupil attainment levels?**

*Comment*

*With higher revenues for learning materials, single age classes of not more than 30 pupils and a teaching assistant for each class, it is expected that the school would continue to provide high quality education.*

**Will the two school halls be sufficient to accommodate the extra pupils for whole school events?**

*Comment*

*The school has an infant and a junior hall, the junior hall being the larger of the two. The hall accommodation at the school meets the latest Department for Education and Skills guidance for school accommodation.*

**Are there sufficient playing areas to meet the needs of more pupils?**

*Comment*

*The governing body of the school has already agreed to double the size of its infant playground. The minimum size of school playing fields is covered by regulation. Even taking into account the planned extension of the infant playground and recent changes in the use of the playing field, the school has a generous site which is more than adequate to meet its statutory requirement.*

**If Stratford schools do not have sufficient capacity to meet the pupil place demand of new housing in the town, either the schools should be expanded or new schools built or the number of new houses should be limited.**

*Comment*

*This makes perfect sense and in terms of planning additional school places that is exactly what has been done. The extension of Thomas Jolyffe School was a planned response to the forecast growth of pupil numbers as a result of new housing. The school would like to admit slightly more pupils than the capacity formula indicates but there is no practical reason why they should not do so if this were agreed. The planning of new houses is a responsibility of the District Council and, therefore, outside the power of the school or County Council to control. The County Council does have a responsibility to provide adequate school places and the enlargement of Thomas Jolyffe is seen as part of meeting that requirement.*

**Will more pupils mean more traffic outside and won't this be more dangerous for pedestrians?**

*Comment*

*Traffic is perennial problem and will continue to be so. It is difficult to predict what the additional impact might be of additional pupils as the decision to drive a child to school could be as a result of several factors including the level of congestion. The school does not allow vehicles on site at the start and end of*

*the day and has two pedestrian-only access and exit routes so that vehicles and pedestrians do not mingle on the school site.*

## **6. Summary**

Thomas Jolyffe has been enlarged as part of the County Council's planned provision to meet the demand for school places in the town of Stratford. While some parents have raised concerns about the impact of a larger school this school has been planned for and has prepared and organised to take two forms of entry (60 pupils) rather than one-and-a-half forms of entry (45 pupils). The new capacity of the school would indicate an admission number of 58 pupils per year but the school feels that it could make provision for 60 pupils per year and in practical terms this is clearly the case. An admission number of 60 pupils per year with the accommodation now in place will enable the school to achieve an optimum class organisation pattern with single aged classes and teaching support in every class.

## **7. Recommendation**

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

MARION DAVIS  
Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families

22 Northgate Street  
Warwick

1<sup>st</sup> March 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.

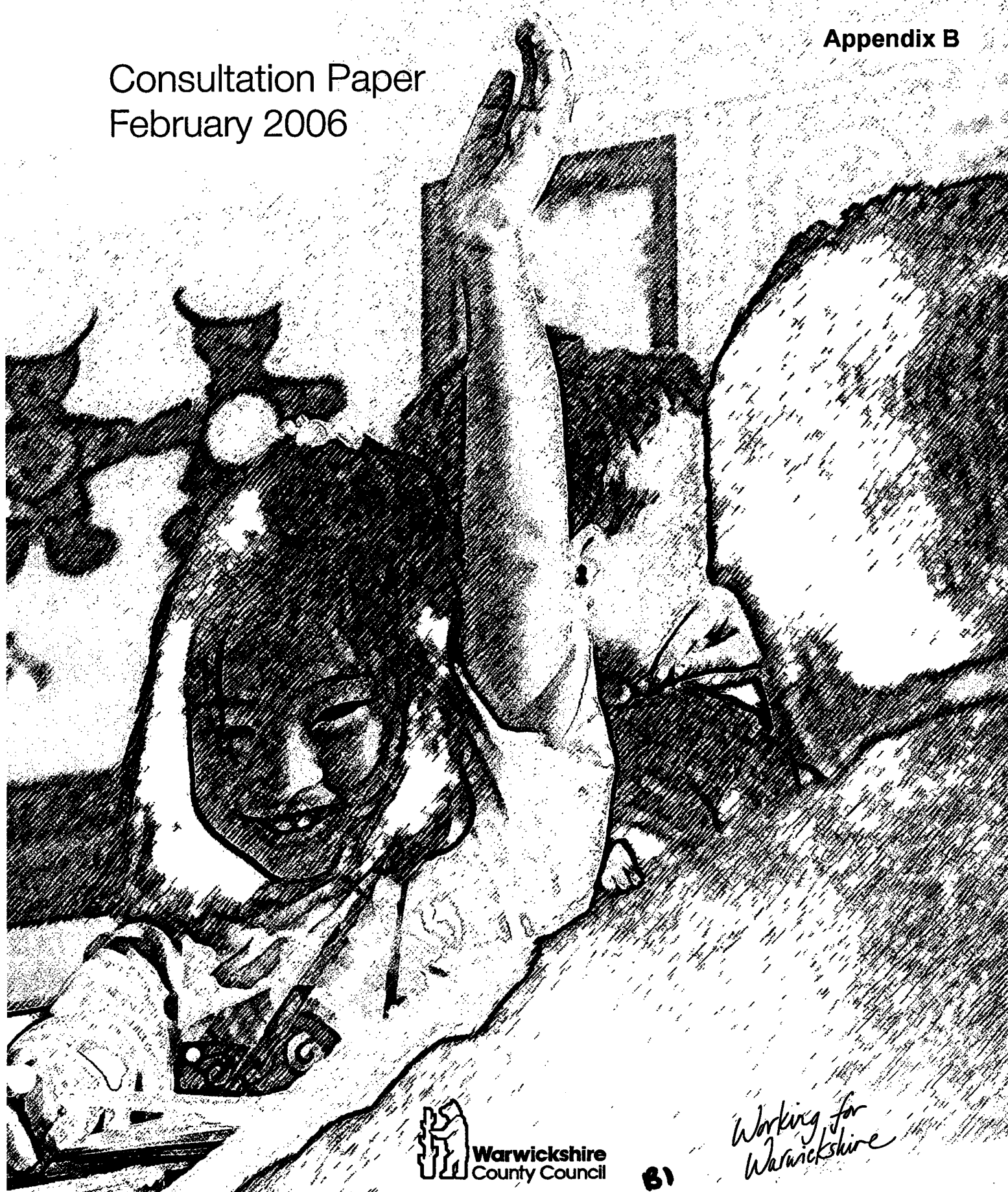
### **Can a PAN be set above the Indicated Admission Number?**

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

# Proposal to increase the Indicated Admission Number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School

Appendix B

Consultation Paper  
February 2006



## THE PROPOSAL

The Governing Body of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School wishes to increase its admission number from 45 to 60 pupils per year with effect from September 2007 admissions.

## BACKGROUND

Thomas Jolyffe Primary School currently has an admission number of 45 pupils per year which is based upon an assessed capacity of 315 when the school was measured in 2002.

Thomas Jolyffe Primary School serves mainly the northern part of Stratford-upon-Avon. The town of Stratford-upon-Avon has grown significantly in recent years, with the increased population resulting in a higher demand for school places in the eight primary schools located close to and within the town. It is forecast that some 970 houses will be built in the town between 2006 and 2009. Developments at Birmingham Road, Bishopton, are close to the school and the increase in new houses generally has led to a rise in demand for pupil places at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School in recent years and the expectation that this demand is likely to increase as new housing is built.

Table 1 below shows the numbers on roll at this school over the last five years and illustrates both the high demand for places at the school in the period 2001-2005 as well as an increase in pupils on roll in the year 2005-06 as the additional space from the new buildings at the school becomes available:

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Year 5	27	24	51
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### **WHY IS THE CHANGE NECESSARY?**

As part of the County Council's strategy for meeting the demand for primary school places in the town, three additional classrooms have been added to the school. A single classroom has been built on to the junior school and a two-classroom extension, larger staffroom and additional toilet facilities have been added to the infant building.

These changes to the buildings at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School have had the planned result of increasing the net capacity of the school from 315 pupils to 406 pupils (according to DfES Guidance 0739/2001 and based on a new survey of the physical space of the school). This new capacity converts to an Indicated Admission Number (IAN) of 58 pupils per year.

The school has signalled its wish to set a Planned Admission Number of 60, slightly in excess of its capacity, for organisational reasons.

### **WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE CHANGE?**

An increase in the admission number of Thomas Jolyffe Primary School would enable the school to provide for some of the additional pupils that will result from new housing in the town.

### **WHEN WOULD THE CHANGE TAKE EFFECT?**

If approved, a Planned Admission Number (PAN) of 60 pupils will apply to admissions to Thomas Jolyffe Primary School from September 2007 onwards.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

This consultation paper is being sent to all parents of pupils attending Thomas Jolyffe Primary School, governing bodies in South Warwickshire, Diocesan Education Authorities, admission authorities 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 the Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee and the Cabinet of Warwickshire County Council.