

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Warwick Area Committee  
**Date of Committee** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007  
**Report Title** Changes to the Indicated Admission Number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College

**Summary** This paper seeks to inform Members of the response to the consultation with stakeholders on proposals to reduce the admission number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College. It also asks for any comments that the Area Committee wishes to make to Cabinet.

**For further information please contact:** Phil Astle  
Assistant Head of Service – Service Planning  
Tel: 01926 742166  
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**

- School Organisation Framework Document 2005/10
- Cabinet reports 25.5.06 and 23.11.06
- Consultation document

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

Other Committees  .....

Local Member(s)  Cllr Michael Doody – Cubbington  
Cllr Eithne Goode – Leamington North  
Cllr Sarah Boad – Leamington North

Other Elected Members  Spokespersons for information:  
Cllr Richard Grant – “agree that the view of the Area Committee be sought”

Cllr Jill Dill-Russell  
Cllr John Whitehouse

- Cabinet Member  Cllr John Burton – *“agree for consideration”*
- Other Cabinet Members consulted  Cllr Izzi Seccombe
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Richard Freeth – *“fine”*
- Finance  .....
- Other Strategic Directors  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  Parents of pupils at North Leamington School, the governing body and all staff at North Leamington School, governing bodies of schools in Central Warwickshire, Diocesan Education Authorities, the local Learning & Skills Council, admission authorities and neighbouring local authorities

**FINAL DECISION**

**NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee  .....
- To Council  .....
- To Cabinet  For final decision
- To an O & S Committee  .....
- To an Area Committee  .....
- Further Consultation  .....

**Warwick Area Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007**

**Changes to the Indicated Admission Number of  
North Leamington Community School and Arts College**

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

**Recommendation:**

That the Area Committee consider:

- (1) the proposal to reduce the admission number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College and the responses to the consultation received from stakeholders, and
- (2) any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006, Cabinet agreed to carry out formal consultation on proposals to reduce the admission number of North Leamington Community School and Arts College from 285 to 240 pupils per year with effect from September 2008.
- 1.2 Formal consultations with stakeholders were conducted from 11<sup>th</sup> December 2006 to 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 North Leamington School is an 11 to 18 community secondary school and is one of four secondary schools serving the town of Leamington Spa and the surrounding area.
- 2.2 The current accommodation at the school has a net capacity of 1,799 pupils and the school has an admission number of 280 pupils per year.
- 2.3 It is intended that North Leamington School will move to new accommodation in September 2008 at a site adjacent to the current school.

- 2.4 An admission number of 240 and a net capacity of 1,500 would be sufficient to meet forecast demand for pupil places and still provide an important degree of flexibility in the town.
- 2.5 In September 2006 the school had 1,413 pupils on roll.
- 2.6 Tables 1 and 2 below give a detailed breakdown of pupil numbers at North Leamington School:

**Table 1**  
**Total number of pupils on roll 2002/06**

	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Sept 2006
Total	1,542	1,556	1,485	1,431	1,413

**Table 2**  
**Number of pupils on roll – September 2006\***

Year Group	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
NOR	175	203	217	228	243	190	157	1,413

\* Statistics based upon the September 2006 PLASC return

### 3. The proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed to reduce the admission number of North Leamington School from 280 to 240 per year group for September 2008. The school will move into new accommodation in the academic year 2008/09.
- 3.2 The proposed change to the admission number of North Leamington School would have little impact on pupils attending the school or on admissions to local schools. An admission number of 240 pupils per year would enable the school to meet demand from all pupils in the school's priority area, from the younger siblings of existing pupils and its large sixth form year groups

### 4. Consultation

- 4.1 A consultation paper setting out the proposals was sent to all parents of pupils at North Leamington School, the governing body and all staff of North Leamington School, the governing bodies of schools in Central Warwickshire, local Diocesan Education Authorities, the local Learning and Skills Council, admission authorities and neighbouring local authorities.
- 4.2 Due to early deadline dates for reports over the Christmas period, few written responses have been received at the time of drafting this report. The responses received at the time of drafting the report are summarised below:

#### 4.2.1 **Headteacher of Trinity Catholic School**

Agrees with the proposal to reduce the admission number of North Leamington School but wonders if the admission number should be set even lower in view of the amount of surplus places in Central Warwickshire and proposals to increase the admission number of Southam College.

##### *Comment*

*There are significant surplus secondary school places in the Central Area of Warwickshire. However, North Leamington School currently has 1,417 pupils on roll (but with a capacity of 1,799 pupils) and the new building will accommodate just 1,500 pupils. Experience suggests that the move to new buildings, which it is intended will occur in the same academic year that the new admission number would come into force, will have a positive effect on pupil numbers. While the proposal will reduce surplus places it is possible that the proposed increase in the admission number at Southam College could offset some of the benefit.*

#### 4.2.2 **Chair of Governors, Trinity Catholic School**

The chair argues that the reduction in the admission limit at North Leamington School will still leave significant surplus places in the Central Area and will lead to competition between schools. The school fears that surplus places will put pressure on school budgets and suggests that the admission limit for North Leamington School should be 175 per year and not 240 as proposed.

##### *Comment*

*A similar situation existed at the time that Trinity Catholic School moved to re-modelled accommodation on a single site in Leamington. Although the development of a smaller Trinity School was discussed at that time, the new Trinity School was re-modelled on its previous scale. North Leamington School will be reducing its admission limit by 40 pupil per year which will be a contribution to reducing surplus places.*

#### 4.2.3 **St. Nicholas C of E (Controlled) Primary School**

No objection to the proposal.

#### 4.2.4 **Kenilworth Town Council**

Will not have a negative affect on Kenilworth residents.

#### 4.3 Copies of all the responses received have been placed in the Members' Group Rooms.

## **5. Summary**

It is intended that, when the current North Leamington School building is replaced with new accommodation in the 2008/09 school year, it will have a lower capacity. It is considered that an admission number of 240, instead of the current 280, would be appropriate.

## **6. Recommendation**

The Area Committee is asked to consider the proposal and the responses to the consultation and any comments it wishes to make to Cabinet.

MARION DAVIS  
Strategic Director for Children,  
Young People and Families

Saltisford Office Park  
Ansell Way  
Warwick

9<sup>th</sup> January 2007