

CABINET MEMBER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING, CULTURE AND LEISURE

**Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Street,
Rotherham.**

Date: Tuesday, 14th March 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Admissions to Schools 2007/08 - Consultation Report (Martin Harrop, Principal Officer, Forward Planning) (report herewith). (Pages 1 - 19)
4. Proposal to Amalgamate Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools (Martin Harrop, Principal Officer, Forward Planning) (report herewith). (Pages 20 - 25)
5. Work to reduce bureaucracy linked to the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (Helen Longland, Acting Head of Service Inclusion Voice and Influence) (report attached). (Pages 26 - 29)

(The Chairman authorised consideration of the following items as a matter of urgency. The reports were sent out as late items after publication of the original agenda)

The following items are likely to be considered in the absence of the press and public as being exempt under those paragraphs indicated below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

6. Lease of Lordens Hill Recreation Ground, Dinnington to Culture & Leisure (Andy Lee, Assistant Manager, Green Spaces, Culture & Leisure) (Report herewith). (Pages 30 - 32)
 - to consider a number of options for the future management of this site

(Exempt under Paragraph 3 of the Act – information relates to financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council))

7. Green Spaces Restructure (Phil Gill, Green Spaces Manager) (report herewith). (Pages 33 - 42)
 - to approve the proposed new structure for Green Spaces and to a request to proceed with its implementation

(Exempt under Paragraph 4 of the Act – information relates to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters)

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	14th March 2006
3.	Title:	Admissions to Schools 2007/08 – Consultation Report (All Wards)
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary:

This report covers issues that have arisen as a result of the annual consultation exercise with and between schools and other LEAs. All admission authorities must determine their arrangements by 15th April 2006.

6. Recommendations:

That:

- i) **the proposed admission numbers contained within Annex 1 for community/controlled schools be confirmed for 2007/08, subject to the clarifications/amendments contained in Annex 2 Ai).**
- ii) **the proposed amendments to the admissions criteria for community/controlled schools for 2007/08 in respect of children with statements of SEN, the use of a tie-breaker and necessary changes relating to 'relevant looked after children' be confirmed.**
- iii) **the changes shown at Annex 2B) in respect of voluntary aided schools be noted,**
- iv) **the appropriate notice be published in respect of the proposed admission numbers for schools named in Annex 2C), where the admission number will be less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation,**
- v) **all admission authorities be informed of the necessary changes brought about by the Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006.**
- vi) **the co-ordinated admissions schemes for both Primary and Secondary schools be confirmed and forwarded to the Secretary of State as required and**
- vii) **this report be forwarded to the Local Admissions Forum (LAF) for consideration at its next meeting.**

7. Proposals and Details:

Annex 1 shows details of the LEA's consultation document, which was considered by governing bodies during the Autumn Term 2005. This has also been accessible on the Authority's website (along with any proposed changes notified by church voluntary aided schools) between 26th January and 1st March 2006.

The proposed admissions criteria for community and controlled schools differ from those applicable in the previous year in two respects:-

- i) removal of 'Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs' from the criteria, and
- ii) the introduction of a distance tie-breaker where the admission number is reached mid-category.

Community and controlled schools have also been consulted on their proposed admission number and voluntary-aided schools have had the opportunity to consider both their admission criteria and admission number.

All feedback received by the Authority is summarised in Annex 2, which also includes further information on the recently published Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006. The Local Admission Forum also needs to consider this report.

8. Finance:

There are no specific financial consequences related to the recommendations of this report, although numbers on roll do have an effect on individual school budgets.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

All consultees must be informed of any determination and it is possible for objections to be made to the Adjudicator.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The proposed changes to the admissions criteria to be used for community/controlled schools in an oversubscribed situation could have a minor effect on the performance indicators for surplus places/parental preference, but it is impossible to quantify this. There is, however, a possible negative impact for a potentially small number of parents/pupils who might not gain a place at their preferred school. The proposal is that the use of a tie-breaker would only take place in instances where not to do so would lead to a potential contravention of the law on infant class sizes or the otherwise unsustainable use of resources.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

This is an annual consultation exercise undertaken by reference to statutory regulations and associated guidance – School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Education Act 2002 and subsequent regulations, DfES School Admissions Code of Practice.

There are also new regulations - The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006 which are relevant.

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**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO GOVERNING BODIES – AUTUMN TERM 2005**

ANNEX 1

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION YEAR
2007/08

i) Admission Numbers and Admissions Criteria

This item gives governors the opportunity to consider the admission arrangements (criteria and admission number), which will apply for admission in 2007/08. The Local Admission Forum has previously considered the requirements for consultation and has agreed that the LEA should facilitate this, as far as possible, by use of the Authority's Internet site.

The timetable for the year is:-

Autumn Term 2005 which will	Governing bodies consider the arrangements apply.
By 13 th January 2006	All relevant details to be forwarded to the LEA.
18 th January – 1 st March 2006	Period of consultation via the LEA's website.
By end of March	LEA and the Local Admission Forum consider any changes and forward any comments to appropriate Admission Authority(ies).
By 15 th April 2006	All admission authorities to determine their arrangements and notify those consulted.

Community and Controlled Schools

For these schools, the LEA is the admission authority. The proposed admissions criteria for 2007/08 are shown at Appendix 1. There are two proposed changes to the 2006/07 criteria, which are as follows:-

- 1 Remove 'Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs' from the criteria in order to make 'Children in Public Care' top priority and to include within the Admissions Booklet a statement to the effect that such children will gain a place at the school named in the statement as part of that process.

NB This corresponds to a change in advice from the DfES and follows on from some recent judgement by the Adjudicator. There is currently consultation on a proposed new draft guidance document and new draft regulations on the admission of children in public care, which makes this change essential. It will not have any adverse effect on the admission of children with special educational needs.

- 2 To include a tie-breaker (distance) which could be used where the admission number is reached mid category. This could be used as part of the initial allocation process and for any of the admission criteria (eg catchment pupils), but would be most likely used in the allocation process for late

applicants only as described in the co-ordinated schemes. Admission numbers for 2006/07 and proposed numbers for 2007/08 for each school are as shown in Appendix 2.

Action: The governing body should complete and return the pro-forma to Martin Harrop, 1st Floor, Norfolk House, as soon as possible and no later than **13th January 2006**.

Voluntary Aided Schools

The governing body is the admission authority. Governing Bodies of Church of England schools should consult their Diocesan Board before consulting anyone else.

Following the successful completion of the consultation exercise for the 2006/07 academic year via the Authority's internet site, governing bodies for voluntary aided schools are relieved of the duty to consult for 2007/08, provided there are no proposed changes to the admission criteria/number. However, governing bodies need to be aware of the proposed changes to the LEA's admissions criteria in relation to Children in Public Care and Children with Statements of Educational Needs following on from proposed new guidance and the draft regulations and these will probably also require a change to the published admission criteria for each voluntary aided school.

Action: Governing Bodies to consider the need to amend the admissions criteria and also to consider the admission number appropriate for the school. Full details of the admissions criteria and admissions number to be forwarded to the LEA by 13th January 2005 in order for the full consultation with all the appropriate consultees to be carried out via the Internet where there is any proposed change. This should be done by e-mail to martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk Pro-forma to be completed and returned as for community and controlled schools.

Further General Points

All admission numbers should now be set by reference to the indicated admission number (IAN) deriving from the net capacity calculation.

An admission number higher than the IAN can be set, subject to the necessary consultation, feedback and determination.

An admission number lower than the IAN can be set, subject to the above, but would also require the publication of a notice with provision for objection to the Adjudicator.

All infant, J&I, Primary schools need to continue to be mindful of the need to maintain classes from R to Y2 at 30 or less.

If you require any further information or would wish to discuss any matters relating to admission numbers/criteria/net capacity, please contact Martin Harrop on 01709 822415.

ii) Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements

Schemes for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for Primary and Secondary schools were agreed for 2006/07.

There are not proposed changes to the schemes for 2007/08.

Action: Governing Bodies to note and to forward any comments, if any, to the LEA marked for the attention of Martin Harrop.

Admission Criteria for community and controlled schools – 2007/08

Primary Reception

Places will be allocated in the following order of priority

- i) Children in Public Care will gain a place at the catchment area/local school or the school deemed most appropriate by the Authority as part of the child's personal education plan.
- ii) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- iii) Those children who live outside the catchment area whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- iv) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- v) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**. The kinds of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- vi) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Year 3

Places in Year 3 at a Junior School will be allocated following receipt of parental preferences according to the following criteria, which are in priority order:-

- i) Children in Public Care will gain a place at the catchment area/local school or the school deemed most appropriate by the Authority as part of the child's personal education plan.
- ii) Children in attendance at Y2 in the associated Infant School.
- iii) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- iv) Children whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the school at the time of their admission.

- v) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- vi) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- vii) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Secondary Year 7

Places will be allocated in the following order of priority:-

- i) Children in Public Care will gain a place at the catchment area/local school or the school deemed most appropriate by the Authority as part of the child's personal education plan.
 - ii) Children who, on the Allocated Date, are living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
 - iii) Those children who live outside the catchment area whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission.
 - iv) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
 - v) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied make attendance **at that particular school essential**. The kind of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
 - vi) Children who, on the allocation date, are on the roll of one of the associated Primary/ Junior/Junior and Infant schools as identified by the Authority.
 - vii) Children who, on the Allocated Date, live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").
- 1 Where the admission number is likely to be reached mid category, priority will be given to those children who, on the Allocated Date, live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").
 - 2 Places will be allocated in accordance with the LEA's co-ordinated admissions schemes for Primary and Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LEA

will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest ranked of the potential offer schools.

- 3 Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs will automatically gain a place at the school named in the statement via that process.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2006/2007	Proposed Admission Number 2007/2008	Comments
Anston Brook Primary	253	36	40	40	
Anston Greenlands J&I	247	35	38	38/35	Govs to consider
Anston Hillcrest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Anston Park Infant	225	75	75	75	
Anston Park Junior	270	67	75	75	
Aston CE J&I	210	30	30		
Aston Fence J&I	140	20	20	20	
Aston Hall J&I	210	30	30	30	
Aston Lodge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aston Springwood Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aughton Primary	195	27	30	30	
Badsley Moor Infant	270	90	90	90	
Badsley Moor Junior	360	90	90	90	
Blackburn Primary	389	55	56	55/56	Govs to consider
Bramley Grange Primary	280	40	40	40	
Bramley Sunnyside Infant	240	80	80	80	
Bramley Sunnyside Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brampton Cortonwood Infant	120	40	40	40	
Brampton the Ellis CE Infant	120	40	40		
Brampton the Ellis CE Junior	269	67	70		
Brinsworth Howarth J&I	210	30	30	30	
Brinsworth Manor Infant	240	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Manor Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary	296	42	42	42	
Broom Valley Infant	225/180	75/60	75	75/60	Revised capacity?
Broom Valley Junior	272	68	68	68	
Canklow Woods Primary	270	38	38	38	
Catcliffe Primary	170	24	25	25	
Coleridge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Dalton Foljambe J&I	141	20	30	30	
Dinnington Primary	364	52	52	52	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Dinnington)	196	28	28		
East Dene J&I	420/350	60/50	50	50	To reduce in line with new build capacity
Ferham Primary	210	30	30	30	
Flanderwell Primary	175	25	30	30	
Greasbrough J&I	308	44	50	50	
Harthill Primary	180	25	30	30	
Herringthorpe Infant	210	70	70	70	
Herringthorpe Junior	280	70	70	70	
High Greave Infant	180	60	60	60	
High Greave Junior	240	60	60	60	

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2006/2007	Proposed Admission Number 2007/2008	Comments
Kilnhurst Primary	196	28	28	28	
Kimberworth Primary	210	30	30	30	New school will have capacity of 210 (R-Y6)
Kiveton Park Infant	162	54	50	54	
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior	180	45	59	45/54/59	Govs to consider
Laughton CE Primary	105	15	15		
Laughton J&I	145	20	24	24	
Lilly Hall Junior	240	60	60	60	
Listerdale J&I	210	30	30	30	
Maltby Craggs Infant	210	70	70	70	
Maltby Craggs Junior	280	70	70	70	
Maltby Hall Infant	178	59	60	60	
Maltby Manor Infant	180	60	60	60	
Maltby Manor Junior	243	60	60	60	
Maltby Redwood J&I	315	45	45	45	
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby)	210	30	30		
Meadowhall Primary	280	40	40	40	New school will have capacity for 280 (R-Y6)
Ravenfield Primary	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh Ashwood J&I	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh St Mary's CE Primary	131	18	30		
Rawmarsh Monkwood Infant	173	57	60	60	
Rawmarsh Monkwood Junior	243	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	240	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	209	29	30	30	
Rawmarsh St Joseph's Catholic Primary	197	28	30		
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	210	30	30	30	
Redscope J & I	420	60	60	60	
Rockingham J&I	390	55	56	56	
Roughwood Primary	392	56	56	56	
Sitwell Infant	228	76	76	76	
Sitwell Junior	300	75	76	76	
St Ann's J&I	420	60	60	60	
St Bede's Catholic Primary	280	40	40		
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Herr)	208	29	30		

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2006/2007	Proposed Admission Number 2007/2008	Comments
St Thomas' CE Primary (Kiln)	180	25	30	30	
Swallownest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Swinton Brookfield Primary	322	46	50	50	
Swinton Fitzwilliam Infant	150	50	50	50	
Swinton Fitzwilliam Junior	176	44	50	50	
Swinton Queen Primary	315	45	45	45	
Thornhill Primary	210	30	30	30	
Thorpe Hesley Infant	210	70	80	80	
Thorpe Hesley Junior	324	81	81	81	
Thrybergh Fullerton CE Primary	105	15	15		
Thrybergh Primary	261	37	50	37/40/50	Govs to consider
St Gerard's Catholic Primary	140	20	20		
Thurcroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Thurcroft Junior	373	93	70	70	
Todwick J&I	210	30	30	30	
Treeton CE Primary	259	37	37		
Trinity Croft CE J&I	112	16	16		
Wales Primary	164	23	30	30	
Wath CE Primary	210	30	30		
Wath Central Primary	420	60	60	60	
Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Primary	175	25	30		
Wath Victoria J&I	270	38	40	40	
Wentworth CE J&I	104	14	14	14	
West Melton J&I	128	18	28	28	
Whiston J&I	210	30	30	30	
Whiston Worrygoose J&I	210	30	30	30	
Wickersley Northfield Primary	419	59	60	60	
St Alban's CE Primary	210	30	30		
Woodsetts J&I	205	29	30	30	

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity Figure	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2006/2007	Proposed Admission Number 2007/2008	Comments
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	1755	300	300	300	
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	1487	255	255	255	
Clifton, A Community Arts School	1433	286	250	250	To correspond with capacity of new build
Dinnington Comprehensive School	1444	252	252	252	
Maltby Comprehensive School	1638	290	290	290	
Oakwood Technology College	1050	210	210	210	
Rawmarsh School, A Sports College	1108	221	222	221/222	Govs to consider
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	1320	226	226	226	
Thrybergh Comprehensive	704/700	140	140	140	Net capacity should be 700 for 2006
Wales High School	1520	248	248	248	
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	1740/1800	290/300	300	300	Net capacity should be 1800 for 2006
Wickersley School and Sports College	1725/1850	279/300	300	300	Net capacity should be 1850 for 2006
Wingfield Comprehensive	845	169	170	170	Net capacity should be 850 for 2006
Winterhill	1128 (for Old Hall)	225	320	320	Net capacity should be 1600 with new build
St Bernard's Catholic High, Specialist School for the Arts	664	132	132		New capacity assessment pending. Govs to consider.
Pope Pius X Catholic High	650	130	130		

ADMISSION NUMBER FOR SIXTH FORMS

School Name	Admission Number for Y7-Y11	Proposed Admission Number for Y12 2007/08 *
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	300	45
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	255	38
Dinnington Comprehensive School	252	37
Maltby Comprehensive School	290	43
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	226	34
Wales High School	248	37
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	300	45
Wickersley Schools and Sports College	300	45

* This number is 15% of the admission number for Y7.

PRO- FORMA

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION FOR 2007/08 ENTRY

In respect of the proposed changes to the LEA's proposed admissions criteria applicable to community and controlled schools.

- 1 Changes relating to Children with Statements of Special Educational Needs and Children in Public Care.

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

- 2 Addition of a proposed tie-breaker (distance) where the admission number is likely to be reached mid category.

This should be applied throughout the allocation process.

Agree

Disagree

This should be applied in respect of the application only.

Agree

Disagree

Comments:

- 3 Community and Controlled School:

Proposed Admission Number 2007/08

Agree

Disagree

If disagree, the suggested admission number for the school is

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Further comments:

4 Voluntary Aided Schools

There will be no changes to the admission criteria.

Amendments will be made to the admissions criteria to Reflect the necessary changes in the relation to Children with SEN Statements and those in Public Care.

The proposed admission number for the school for 2007/08 is.

NB Please complete this pro-forma and return to Martin Harrop by no later than **13th January 2006.**

For any changed admissions criteria for voluntary aided schools, please forward the full criteria via e-mail to: martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk

Feedback from the annual admissions consultationA) Community and Controlled Schoolsi) Admission numbers

A number of schools were asked to give consideration to a possible change to their admission number to that already in place for 2006/07. Responses have been as follows:-

School	Possible Numbers	Number preferred by Governors
Anston Greenlands	35/38	38
Blackburn	55/56	56
Broom Valley Inf	60/75	60
Kiveton Park Meadows Jnr	45/54/59	59
Thrybergh Primary	37/40/50	37
Rawmarsh School, A Sports College	221/222	222

For all of the above, the governors' preferred number is either the same as the previous number (2006/07 admission year) or, where different, it now matches the indicated admission number derived from the latest net capacity assessment for the school. There is no reason, therefore, not to agree the preferred number in each case.

Additionally, there has been a request received from Wentworth CE School (controlled) that the admission number should revert to 16. The admission number has varied between 14 and 16 over the last few years. There are four classrooms at the school and an admission number of 16 can be accommodated within the net capacity calculation.

It should also be noted that the indicated admission number for Dinnington Primary school is now 43 following a recent recalculation of the net capacity. The governors have agreed that this should be the admission number for the school for 2007/08.

ii) Admission Criteria

As stated earlier in the main report, governing bodies have been asked to consider and comment on the proposed changes to the Authority's admissions criteria, which would be used where a school was oversubscribed. The feedback can be summarised as follows:-

Changes	In Favour	Against
Removal of 'Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs' from the criteria	88.9%	11.1%
Inclusion of a tie-breaker (distance)		
i) throughout the process	89.3%	10.7%
ii) for late applications only	53.6%	46.4%

Clearly, there has been strong backing for the removal of 'children with a statement of Special Educational Needs' from within the criteria. This is necessary to comply with DfES guidance and in order to leave 'relevant looked after children' as the top criterion. There are regulations now in force regarding the latter (see below).

As explained in the consultative document, this change will have no adverse effect on children with a statement of special educational needs, who will continue to gain a place at the school named via the statementing process.

In respect of the use of a tie-breaker, there was also strong backing that this should be used throughout the process, with close to a fifty/fifty split as to whether it should be used for late applications only.

B Voluntary Aided Schools

Schools were asked to consider arrangements for 2007/08. Consultation was not required where there was no proposed change to the 2006/07 arrangements.

The following proposed changes to admission numbers were received:-

School	Previous Admission Number	Proposed Admission Number
Rawmarsh St Mary's CE	30	18
Thrybergh Fullerton CE	15	17

i) Rawmarsh St Mary's CE

The proposed number is equal to that indicated by the current net capacity calculation.

ii) Thrybergh Fullerton CE

The situation here is similar to that at Wentworth. An admission number of 17 can be accommodated within the net capacity calculation.

Additionally, there have been minor revisions to the admissions criteria for Rawmarsh St Mary's CE, St Albans CE and Pope Pius X Catholic High Schools.

C Required publication where an admission number is less than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation for the school.

There remains a requirement for a notice to be published should any admission authority wish to have an admission number, which is lower than that indicated by the current net capacity calculation. For 2007/08, this will apply to the following schools, mostly as a result of new build under the PFI scheme:-

School	Change	Comments
Clifton	250 rather than 286	will have changed capacity
East Dene	50 rather than 60	will have changed capacity
Kimberworth	30 rather than 66	will have changed age range and capacity
Meadowhall	40 rather than 75	will have changed age range and capacity
Thurcroft Junior	70 rather than 93	large classrooms

D The Education (Admission of Looked After Children) (England) Regulations 2006

These regulations were laid before Parliament at the end of January and came into force on 21st February 2006. The regulations apply to admissions in the 2007/08 academic year and subsequent years.

As a result of the regulations, admission authorities must give priority in their oversubscription criteria to all 'relevant looked after children'. A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.

For schools designated as having a religious character, regulation 5 allows the admission authority (the governing body) to give first priority in their oversubscription criteria to all 'relevant looked after children', regardless of their faith. However, the regulations require the admission authority, in any event, to give higher priority to 'relevant looked after children' of the faith of the school, over other children of that faith, and to give higher priority to 'relevant looked after children' not of that faith than other children not of that faith.

Admission authorities need to make any necessary amendments to their oversubscription criteria as a result of the introduction of these regulations, particularly in respect of any previous references to 'children in public care' and, 'the school named as part of the child's Personal Education Plan' etc. Any such references are not now appropriate.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning Cabinet Member and Advisers
2.	Date:	14th March 2006
3.	Title:	The proposal is to amalgamate Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools by closing both schools and opening a new Maltby Manor Primary School.
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People’s Services Ward 9 - Maltby

5. Summary

It is proposed to consult on the amalgamation of Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools by closing both schools and opening a new Maltby Manor Primary School. Members have previously agreed to consult as appropriate where two schools meet the considerations for amalgamation which are described in the ‘School Organisation Plan’.

6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the consultation on the proposal to the amalgamation of Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools by closing both schools and opening a new Maltby Manor Primary School as described in Appendix ‘A’ is begun and that a further report be brought to Members with details of the outcome of the consultation.

7. Proposals and Details

The proposal to be consulted on is:-

It is proposed to amalgamate Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools from January 2007. To do this both Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools will be closed and a new Maltby Manor Primary school with an age range of to 3-11 years will be opened. The new Primary school will accommodate the same number of pupils as are currently accommodated within the two schools.

The new School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a Nursery unit of up to 52 places (26FTE). (This is the combined numbers of the current two schools) The school would have an admission number of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- 1) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- 2) to provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which will be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

Considerations for amalgamation are described in the School Organisation Plan in Section 4, 'LEA Policies and Principles'. (These are described in **Appendix 'A'**)

There will be a vacancy for the Head Teacher's post at the Junior School, both schools are on the same site and the admission limit of the two schools is 60, the conditions for consultation on amalgamation are met.

8. Finance

Financial savings which arise are savings on staffing, mainly from the loss of a Head Teacher's post from the school's budget. The 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' procedures protect the school budget in 2006-07 and additional funding is added in the first year to the budget of an amalgamated school

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The risks associated to an amalgamation are detailed in section 4 of **Appendix 'A'**.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The major theme supported by the proposal is 'to ensure that everyone has access to skills, knowledge and information to enable them to play their part in society'. The principle advantages of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlements which are:-

- Removal of the school transfer at the end of key stage1;
- Provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;

- A unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- The potential to remodel the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- A whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase; more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

The School Organisation Plan and the 'School Standards and Framework Act 1998'

The consultation process is described in **Appendix 'A'**

Contact Name: David Hill, Manager, School Organisation Planning and Development, Ext 2536, david-education.hill@rotherham.gov.uk

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICES**Proposal to 'amalgamate' Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools****1 The Proposal and its Purpose**

The proposal is to amalgamate Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools from January 2007. To do this both Maltby Manor Infant and Maltby Manor Junior Schools will be closed and a new Maltby Manor Primary school, with an age range of 3-11 years, will be opened. The new Primary school will accommodate the same number of pupils as are currently accommodated within the two schools.

The School would have 420 places (R-Y6) with a Nursery unit of up to 52 places (26 FTE). (This is the combined numbers of the current two schools) The new school would have an admission number of 60.

The principal objectives of amalgamation are:

- i) to provide a continuous primary entitlement across the key stages; and
- ii) to provide a unified management structure with a single school ethos which will be more efficient and make more effective use of resources.

Considerations for amalgamation are described in the School Organisation Plan in Section 4, 'LEA Policies and Principles'. These are where:-

- 1) It is possible to accommodate all of the children on one site, thereby removing surplus places (if applicable).
- 2) The admission limit is already no more than 60, or can be reduced to no more than 60, by the associated removal of surplus places.
- 3) Both Key Stages are on the same site.
- 4) There will be a vacancy for both head teacher posts as a result of retirement or resignation.

2 Existing Situation: Numbers on roll and Capacity**2.1 Maltby Manor Infant School**

Net Capacity	=	180
Admission Limit	=	60
Number on Roll (2002) (NOR)	=	168
Surplus Places	=	12

2.2 Maltby Manor Junior School

Net Capacity	=	243
Admission Number	=	60
Number on Roll (2002) (NOR)	=	231
Surplus Places	=	12

3 **Development of Numbers on Roll**

Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Infant	168	164	153	162	145
Junior	231	240	233	228	225
Total	399	404	386	390	370

4 **Advantages and Disadvantages**

The principal ADVANTAGES of amalgamation arise from the continuous primary education entitlement:

- removal of the school transfer at the end of key stage 1;
- provision of a whole school curriculum across the primary age range;
- a unified management structure with a single school ethos;
- the potential to remodel the staffing structure and to safeguard the staffing establishment when pupil numbers change across the key stages;
- a whole school approach to staff development across the primary phase;
- more efficient and effective use of resources, especially accommodation, when numbers fluctuate across the infant and junior phases.

The principal DISADVANTAGES of amalgamation are:

- the loss of the Head teacher of one of the schools which could impact upon accessibility to staff, parents and pupils (this may have particular relevance where schools serve areas of social and economic disadvantage);
- potential difficulties in bringing together two different sets of working practice;
- possible fear of and resistance to change amongst staff, governors and parents;
- in some (but by no means all) cases, a lack of staff expertise in teaching and management across the two key stages.

5 **Financial Implications**

Financial savings which arise are savings on staffing, mainly from the loss of a Head Teacher's post from the school's budget and the 'Minimum Funding Guarantee' procedures protect the school budget in 2006-07.

6 **Consultation Timetable**

Cabinet Member to agree to consultation	14 th March 2006
Pre statutory consultation period, (end of term) including meetings with governors, staff and parents	31 st March 2006
Report to the Cabinet	25 th April 2006
Publication of statutory notices	5 th May 2006
6 week period for representations and objections closes	16 th June 2006
LEA/School Organisation Committee decision	by 7 th July 2006
Implementation	1 st January 2007

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Lifelong Learning, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member
2.	Date:	14th March 2006
3.	Title:	Work to reduce bureaucracy linked to the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Service

5. Summary:

This report provides an update for members in relation to the letter from Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, to Chief Education Officers/ Director of Children's Services about reducing bureaucracy linked to the provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

A recent meeting with the DfES SEN Adviser indicates that Rotherham is making positive steps to achieve this.

6. Recommendations:

That Members receive this report.

7. Proposals and Details:

12.01.06

Information for Councillors in response to the letter from Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, to Chief Education Officers/ Director of Children's Services.

07.02.06

Representatives from Inclusion, Voice and Influence met with Penny Robson DfES Regional SEN Adviser. Part of the meeting considered the partnership work the LA and schools were undertaking to reduce bureaucracy in line with guidance from the DfES within 'Removing Barriers to Achievement, The Government's Strategy for SEN.'

Actions to date

Inclusion, Voice and Influence has looked critically at the systems for planning assessing, reviewing and making provision for children with SEN, working with schools and the workforce re-modelling team to continue to ensure proper accountability.

Through out 2004-05

- Guidance to SENCOs /Inclusion managers on Provision Mapping within the SENCO Box of Tricks,
- The use of Individual Education Plans discussed with SENCOs / Inclusion Managers at joint planning meetings involving Learning Support Service and Educational Psychology Service.
- Reduction in the use of IEPs discussed at SENCO /Inclusion Manager Workshops during 2005, in training for new SENCOs in 2006 and Leading on Inclusion training delivered Jan. 06
- Further training on Provision Mapping as part of Leading on Inclusion course 03.02.06.
- Guidance on the identification of primary need in preparation for PLASC delivered to schools by Learning Support Service. Dec. 05.
- Good practice in the use of ICT is developing in some secondary schools & across other phases.
- Training has been delivered by CAPITA to some schools, Dec 05 & Jan 06 on SIMS.net, SENCO module and IEP Writer. Further training for all SENCOs/ Inclusion Managers late Feb. 06
- The majority of communication from Inclusion, Voice and Influence with schools is by electronic means.
- In many schools the administration of the review processes has been delegated to support staff as part of the '24 tasks' within the workforce re-modelling agenda

To ensure the assessment process and accountability

- P level data and data on pupils supported by Learning Mentors being collected from schools to improve focus on outcomes of interventions for children and young people

- The Monitoring & Evaluating of SEN Provision through supported self review, development of the Self Evaluation Form and financial and resource monitoring and review.

Provision to develop the work on the monitoring and evaluation of SEN Provision across schools in Rotherham.

Principal Officer – SEN Provision Review

This is a newly created permanent post as from January 2006. The Principal Officer is leading on developing this area of work. To date we have had a number of schools requesting support to help them plan and review their expenditure of SEN. The work focuses on the requirements of the SEF and enables schools to ensure that they are able to evidence “value for money”.

Systems are currently being developed so that the progress of pupils with Statements can be more effectively tracked on an individual pupil or school level basis so that the Authority can monitor and evidence progress of this group of pupils more effectively.

Senior Officer – SEN Finance

This is a temporary post that was created in November 2004 until July 2006. However, we have been able to extend this post now until March 2007. It is anticipated that we will be looking to make this post permanent in the future. The Senior Officer is responsible for providing the financial information to support the work of the Principal Officer. This post also collates information from every mainstream school regarding SEN expenditure against the school SEN budget. This information is then analysed and enables us to compare costs across the Local Authority with other areas in the Region.

The Senior Officer also plays a key role in researching and applying formula factors as we work towards developing a model that divorces funding from Statements.

Changes to the SEN funding formula for schools will be effective from April 2006 and will enable schools to reduce the number of pupils with Statements of SEN as the funding for SEN will no longer be linked to the number of Statements for High incidence SEN. A reduction in the number of high incidence Statements will also reduce the current levels of statutory bureaucracy that are linked to the Assessment and Review aspect of this area of work. Schools will then be able to focus more on the early intervention aspect and only request Statutory Assessments of SEN for the small number of pupils who have exceptional levels of need.

8. Finance:

The changes to the funding formula for SEN have been the subject of consultation with schools and have been reported to members. The funding for the SEN Finance Officer is temporary until March 2007. Other actions to reduce bureaucracy have been and will be met within existing resources.

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

The reduction of bureaucracy is an important element of the move towards early identification, intervention and prevention which enables schools to meet the needs of all their pupils. It also contributes to the development of positive relationships and partnership between the Local Authority and schools. Failure to reduce bureaucracy would have a detrimental effect on these outcomes.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

Development of effective systems to support provision for children and young people with SEN contributes to delivery of the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan (Rotherham Learning and Rotherham Achieving), the Council's Inclusion Plan, the Council's commitment to Equalities and Diversity and the Every Child Matters priorities which underpin Children & Young People's Services. Detailed annual plans for this form part of the Single Plan and service business planning

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

N/A

Contact Name :

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