

RE-DESIGNATION OF ATTENDANCE AREAS

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: EDUCATION & CORPORATE PARENTING - JIM COLLINS

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR GILLY REYNOLDS

PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

1.1 The Council currently has designated attendance areas for the vast majority of maintained schools and academies which are based on the Council's desire to have a local school to serve the local community. National guidelines specify that Local Authorities should aim to identify a school place for all pupils within three miles of their home address. These attendance areas do not prevent parents or carers from expressing preference for other schools.

1.2 We now completed the consultation on changes to our existing attendance areas as outlined in the cabinet paper presented in November 2016. This report is to enable Cabinet to consider the responses to the public consultation survey, outcomes of public meetings or any other written feedback in order to determine whether the proposals should be implemented from September 2018

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet receives and takes note of all the information relating to the consultation on the changes to attendance areas contained within this report and approves that the following changes to attendance areas are implemented from September 2017:

- **Lilleshall Primary School attendance area will give priority to Lilleshall residents**
- **Muxton Primary School attendance area will give priority to Muxton residents**
- **Lawley residents will have a shared attendance area to include both Ercall Wood Technology College and Telford Langley School**
- **Burton Borough attendance area will be redrawn to include Newport, the rural villages and Lilleshall**
- **Telford Priory School attendance area will be redrawn to include Muxton residents**

2.2 Cabinet authorises the Assistant Director: Education & Corporate Parenting, in consultation with the Lead cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Regeneration, to take all required actions and exercise all the Council's relevant powers to enable the redesignation of attendance areas.

3 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	Children and Young People – to consult and involve all stakeholders with a vested interest in children’s education and safety
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	Children and Families living in the Borough
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	September 2018	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Muxton is within three miles of Telford Priory school and so there would be no statutory requirement for the Council to provide transport for these pupils. Muxton parents could choose to continue to send their children to Burton Borough, but as this would no longer be their catchment school, there would again be no statutory requirement for the Council to provide transport. Transport will continue to be provided for pupils currently at Burton Borough and for pupils entering the school in September 2017, meaning that the full savings on transport costs will not be realised by the Council until 2022.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	It is the responsibility of Local Authorities, governing bodies and decision makers to ensure that they act in accordance with relevant legislation and statutory guidance. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires a local authority to secure that sufficient schools in number, character and equipment for providing primary and secondary education are available for its area Section 14(3A) requires a local authority to exercise its functions in this respect to with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, and increasing opportunities for parental choice
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Borough wide impact but particular impact for Muxton residents.

4 INFORMATION

4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in the area, promote diversity, and increase parental preference.

4.2 In recent years the Borough has experienced an increase in the primary school population, which has been in part due to larger year groups starting school and smaller year groups leaving at the end of year 6. This has also been affected by a higher number of completions of new homes within the Borough over the last few years.

4.3 These higher cohort numbers are now also impacting on secondary schools and this, combined with new housing development yielding additional pupils, means that our overall secondary surplus is decreasing and that in some areas of the borough there will be a need to rationalise secondary school places.

4.4 National guidelines specify that Local Authorities should aim to identify a school place for all pupils within three miles of their home address, although it is recognised that in some rural areas this might not be possible. In Telford and Wrekin our planning for school places, based on the projections of pupil numbers and growth in housing development, aims to achieve this goal. Due to the opening of a new secondary school, Telford Priory, and with the proposed adjustment to school catchment areas, it is now possible for this aim to be achieved for pupils living in the Muxton area.

5 PRIMARY SCHOOL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 At present there is shared attendance area between Muxton and Lilleshall Primary Schools and we are proposing that each primary will have its own individual attendance area so that Lilleshall residents will have priority within the Lilleshall attendance area and Muxton residents will have priority within the Muxton attendance area for their respective schools. Lilleshall attendance area will remain in the attendance area for Burton Borough School whilst Muxton attendance area will have priority at Telford Priory School at secondary level.

6 SECONDARY SCHOOL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are 3 secondary schools situated within Newport. Two of these, Adams' Grammar School and Newport Girls High School, are single sex grammar schools which select applicants on the basis of their academic ability and the third, Burton Borough School, is a comprehensive school. Adams Grammar School and Newport Girls high School have no plans currently to change their existing catchment areas.

6.2 The pressure on places within the Newport area arising from the large amount of consented housing development means that places that are currently being occupied by children from outside the Newport area will in future be needed for Newport residents. In view of the potential pressure on places in Newport we

propose to give priority for the available places at Burton Borough School to residents of Newport and its surrounding villages in line with the Council's aim to provide local schools for each community.

6.3 The Telford Priory School opened on a new site in September 2015 and is within three miles of Muxton. It has significantly enhanced provision particularly for Performing Arts and Sport. This includes the use of the recently re-furnished Oakengates Leisure Centre and a purpose built tennis centre offering both indoor and outdoor courts.

6.4 Ercall Wood Technology College serves the southern half of Wellington and also the Lawley area. Planned new housing means that the available places within Ercall Wood will be necessary to accommodate pupils from new development in Wellington. It is recommended that the Lawley area should become a shared attendance area between Ercall Wood Technology College and Telford Langley School.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This remains unchanged from the Cabinet Report dated 17 November 2017.

8 CONSULTATION PROCESS

8.1 Following the Cabinet decision on 17 November 2016 to allow formal consultation to take place, a public consultation was launched. The purpose of the consultation was to find out public views to help the Council continue to offer the best, cost effective education solutions within the budget to meet the needs of a growing pupil population.

8.2 The consultation period ran for a six week period from 2 December 2016 to 27 January 2017. This included an online survey launched through the Council website where the public were asked a series of questions about each of the proposals and also invited to register their comments. In addition to the survey, the public were also invited to respond by email to the schoolorganisation@telford.gov.uk email address, or by writing to the Council directly. In addition, a number of stakeholders have written to their local Councillor and these have been included in the feedback summary. The Assistant Director and the SDM for School Organisation attended a Parish Council meeting on to answer questions about the proposals affecting the Muxton area.

8.3 As part of the consultation the following stakeholders were also written to and invited to submit their views:

Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Boards of all schools involved:

Shropshire CC – Director of Children Services
Staffordshire CC - Director of Children Services
Lichfield Diocese
Shrewsbury Diocese
Hereford Diocese
MPs – Lucy Allan and Mark Pritchard
DfE – School Organisation

9 **CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

9.1 Online Survey

Three hundred and two members of the public completed the online survey to register their views about the proposals. (See Appendix 4). The online survey was primarily completed by Muxton residents, the majority of whom expressed some dissatisfaction or concern about the proposals.

9.2 Email responses

A total of forty one responses were received to the schoolorganisation@telford.gov.uk email box and several of these represented the views of the same families. Five of these only raised queries about the consultation process and timeframe for decisions and these were answered at the point of receipt.

Thirty one responses raised objections to the proposals for the removal of Muxton Primary School from the Burton Borough catchment area. Respondents often raised more than one reason for their objection.

There were no email responses to the proposal that the Lawley area should become a shared attendance area between Ercall Wood and Telford Langley School.

9.3 Overall summary of consultation feedback

Proposal	Public response
Lilleshall Primary Attendance Area should give priority to Lilleshall residents	The majority of respondents were in favour of this proposal
Muxton Primary Attendance Area should give priority to Muxton residents	The majority of respondents were in favour of this proposal
Lawley residents will have a shared attendance area to include both Ercall Wood Technology College and Telford Langley School	The vast majority of respondents were in favour of this proposal
Burton Borough attendance area will be redrawn to include Newport, the rural villages and Lilleshall	The majority of respondents were not in favour of this proposal
Telford Priory School attendance area will be redrawn to include Muxton residents	The majority of respondents were not in favour of this proposal

10 **CABINET RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

10.1 Cabinet are pleased to note that the first three proposed changes above received approval from the majority of respondents and in the case of the Lawley proposal this figure was in excess of 88%.

10.2 Cabinet note that a large number of residents in Muxton participated in the Consultation exercise and recognise that there are some concerns which parents have about the proposals. The following table summarises the main issues that have been raised and illustrates that the cabinet has given due consideration to each point and, where possible, gives details of actions that can be introduced to

ensure that these proposals can be successfully implemented from September 2018.

Parental Concern	Cabinet Response
Distance from Muxton to Telford Priory School	It should be noted that this distance of acceptable walking route is one that has been nationally implemented for over 70 years, applies to all Local Authorities in England and is no different from the journeys which other Telford & Wrekin young people are expected to make in order to travel to their attendance area school.
Safe Walking Route from Muxton to Telford Priory School	<p>The recent audit of potential walking routes to school for pupils travelling from the Muxton area to Telford Priory, carried out by The Telford and Wrekin Transport Commissioning Department (Appendix 1), evaluates that routes exist which are safe and reasonable and could potentially secure benefits for both the school and the children by improving their health through active travel. This is in line with the DFE Home to School Statutory Travel and Transport Guidance.</p> <p>The Council will consider whether further improvements could be made to the routes from Muxton to Telford Priory looking for example at the feasibility of creating increased safe cycling routes in addition to existing footpaths.</p>
Subsidised Transport to Burton Borough School	<p>As stated in the report of 17 November, all pupils resident in Muxton and currently attending Burton Borough School will continue to receive transport until the end of their statutory education. This also applies to any pupil offered a place at Burton Borough School and due to start in September 2017.</p> <p>From September 2018 any pupil living in Muxton and gaining a place based on the school's admissions criteria will be given the opportunity to purchase a seat on any school buses still running to Newport.</p> <p>The Council will not provide transport to Telford Priory School as it is within the three miles statutory distance but will work closely with bus providers to improve bus routes and timings that will</p>

	support residents of Muxton wishing to travel by bus to Telford Priory School.
Parental Choice	These proposals do not remove the right of parents to express a preference for a school other than their attendance area school. Current Year 6 pupils will be unaffected by the proposals and younger children currently attending Muxton School will be able to apply for places under the schools admission code and this will mean for example that the sibling of any child currently attending Burton Borough will be given a higher priority than others living outside the attendance area.
Shared Catchment Area	A number of respondents have suggested that a shared catchment area be considered for either Burton Borough or Priory. Although the Borough currently has a limited number of shared catchment areas, these only exist where both schools are within three miles of the addresses in order to support the Council's desire to have a local school to serve each local community
School Standards and Quality of Education	<p>Pupils living in Muxton will remain in the catchment area for the two Newport Grammar Schools and will continue to be able to apply for places at Thomas Telford CTC. They are also able to still express a preference for Burton Borough School but would no longer be guaranteed a place.</p> <p>Pupils admitted to Telford Priory Secondary school in 2018 will take statutory tests at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2023. As a new school it does not currently have an OFSTED grading. Whilst it is impossible to forecast the results that will be achieved so far into the future, the Academy Trust responsible for Telford Priory School are confident that the school will continue to make rapid improvements to standards achieved by pupils, in line with the performance of other secondary schools which are members of the Academy Trust.</p>
Parental Views of Telford Priory School	Some concern was expressed about a number of opinions posted to Parent View and the Council will continue to

	<p>work closely with the Academy Trust to forge positive working relationships. Recent meetings with Council Senior Officials and the School Leadership Team have indicated that Senior Leaders at Telford Priory School are keen to work closely with Muxton Primary School and the parental body to ensure that by 2018 an effective and successful transition programme will be in place.</p>
<p>Rate of completion of consented housing in the Newport area</p>	<p>The Cabinet acknowledges that the impact of new housing stock can be unpredictable as it is dependent upon the rates of completion by individual contractors. Parents in the Muxton area will continue to be able to apply for a place at Burton Borough School as a preference for their children and, if the planned housing development slows down, this will increase the chances of pupils in Muxton being allocated an available place, based on the schools admissions criteria.</p>

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Appendix 1 – Safe walking route assessment
- Appendix 2 – Telford Priory School catchment area map
- Appendix 3 - Email responses
- Appendix 4 – Online survey summary

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