

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 2 APRIL 2015

PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report summarises new primary school capacities following a review of the current methodology in line with recently published Scottish Government guidance. Approval to cap the roll of Hayshead, Inverbrothock, Langlands, Mattocks, St Thomas, Timmergreens and Woodlands Primary Schools is sought alongside the request to apply the principle of reserved places in these schools.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Adopt the new primary school capacities for all Angus primary schools as outlined in appendix one of this report
- (ii) Approve roll capping of the schools outlined in section 5.2 of this report for session 2015/16
- (iii) Approve the establishment of reserved places within these schools for Session 2015/16, as outlined in section 5.2 of this report
- (iv) Request an annual report from the Head of Schools and Learning as to the school capacities for the following school session.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Scottish Government published guidance entitled "Determining Primary School Capacity" in October 2014 (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00461513.pdf>). The purpose of the guidance is to provide advice to Local Authorities on the determination of "School Capacity" with the aim to provide a more consistent approach to calculating the capacity of schools across the country. Whilst this guidance is intended to be flexible to allow local authorities to respond to their differing contexts, it sets out best practice in calculating primary school capacity. It remains a Local Authority responsibility to choose how they calculate school capacity in their areas.

3.2 Within this new guidance there are two measures of primary school capacity: planning capacity and working capacity. Planning capacity is a physical, theoretical measure of the total number of children which could be accommodated in a school, based on the total number of teaching spaces, the size of those spaces and the class size maxima. In reality, planning capacity is often unachievable due to pupil distribution over year groups. Working capacity is a dynamic and more realistic measure of the total number of pupils which can be accommodated in a school in a particular school session. This is adjusted based on the organisational needs of each school each session. The working capacity should be used to determine the number of places available in a particular school during a particular session and used when considering placing requests in the interests of promoting educational

achievement. Full guidance on how both capacity measures are identified can be found in the Scottish Government guidance.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Council's policy is to encourage parents to enrol their children in their local school but otherwise to agree to all Placing Requests wherever possible. A small number of Angus schools are under considerable pressure for space due to high rolls. Attending a school nursery does not imply automatically enrolment at the same primary school.

4.2 The Children and Learning Committee agreed work (Report 82/15) to update Angus Council's approach to determining primary school capacity. Agreement in principle was also given to consider roll capping and establishing reserved places in order to ensure that sufficient classroom space remains available in specific schools. Reserved places refer to the number of places, in the opinion of Angus Council, which are reasonably required to accommodate pupils likely to become resident in the catchment area of a school during the period of considering placing requests and during the school year. This allows the People Directorate to calculate and retain a certain number of places for children from families likely to move into the catchment area of schools which have classrooms with a limited number of places in some or all stages. The legislation permits the education authority the right to refuse some or all placing requests made for a particular school on the grounds that places have to be kept for children who may become resident in the catchment area during the year. Places are reserved to try to accommodate these children, where possible in their catchment school, allowing the People Directorate to take positive steps to protect places in schools for catchment pupils.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 School Capacities

Instead of the "blanket" approach to calculating primary school capacity currently in place in Angus, each primary school's capacity has been assessed on its own merits, dependent upon its designs, core facilities and the effective delivery of the 21st Century Curriculum. The new capacity profile for each primary school (found in appendix one) shows the planning and working capacity of each school. The planning capacity is the figure used to determine possible future developer contributions related to new house builds. The working capacity accounts for the most effective class configuration of each school for session 2015/16. The working capacity is the figure that will now be used to assess any placing requests.

5.2 Roll Capping and Reserved Places

It is proposed that all classes in schools where school rolls are reaching or over capacity are limited so that the optimum number of classes within these schools is not exceeded. This will ensure that, as far as possible, places remain at these schools for pupils zoned for these establishments. When a school roll reaches 90% of school working capacity, an in-depth analysis of the roll and roll projection will be undertaken. When a school reaches 95% working capacity (or when 5 or fewer places remain), approval will be sought from Committee to cap the roll. The roll cap is calculated by subtracting the number of reserved places required in the school over the course of the session from the working capacity. In a large two stream school it is proposed to retain 14 places for reserved places for children who may move into the catchment area over the course of the year. For schools of 5 to 7 classes, 7 places will be retained for this purpose and for schools of less than 5 classes 5 spaces will be reserved. Schools of 7 to 10 classes will reserve 10 places. Currently it is necessary to seek approval for the capping of the rolls of the following schools:

- Hayshead Primary School
- Inverbrothock Primary School
- Langlands Primary School
- Mattocks Primary School
- St Thomas Primary School
- Timmergreens Primary School
- Woodlands Primary School

In situations where the children living in zone exceeds the number of available places in a capped school, there may be a requirement to travel to a nearby school. On these occasions transportation will be provided.

5.2.1 Roll Capping of Hayshead Primary School

Hayshead Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 473 for session 2015/16. It is proposed to retain 14 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This caps the school to accept placing requests up to 459 places.

5.2.2 Roll Capping of Inverbrothock Primary School

Inverbrothock Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 390 for session 2015/16. This is calculated on the basis of 1.7m per child, as are all the other schools' working capacities. In Inverbrothock the size of classrooms allows for full classes at 1.5m per child. Whilst this is still within the acceptable range as per Scottish Government guidance, it is important to note this difference. It is proposed to retain 14 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This theoretically caps the school to accept placing requests up to 376 places. However it is recognised that the school has run as 1.5m per child for a considerable period of time. It is therefore proposed to cap the school roll at 404 for placing requests for session 2015/16. This is working capacity at the recommended space standard of 1.7m per child (390) plus 14 reserved places. We will work to reduce the roll in line with the planning capacity and recommended over the course of time in order to ensure equity of space for the children at Inverbrothock.

5.2.3 Roll Capping of Langlands Primary School

Langlands Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 453 for session 2015/16. It is proposed to retain 14 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This caps the school to accept placing requests up to 439 places.

5.2.4 Roll Capping of Mattocks Primary School

Mattocks Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 75 for session 2015/16. It is proposed to retain 5 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This caps the school to accept placing requests up to 70 places.

5.2.5 Roll Capping of St Thomas Primary School

St Thomas Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 125 for session 2015/16. It is proposed to retain 7 places as reserved spaces in the school for children who meet the criteria to access a Roman Catholic school and are in zone until June 2016. This caps the school to accept placing requests up to 118 places.

5.2.6 Roll Capping of Timmergreens Primary School

Timmergreens Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 217 for session 2015/16. This is calculated on the basis of the space available in the new school build. It is proposed to retain 7 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This theoretically caps the school to accept placing requests up to 210 places. However whilst the school is in temporary accommodation it is recognised that there is additional capacity. It is therefore proposed to cap the school roll at 220 for placing requests for session 2015/16 whilst working to reduce the roll in line with the planning capacity over the course of the period until the new school is available.

5.2.7 Roll Capping of Woodlands Primary School

Woodlands Primary School has a maximum working capacity of 217 for session 2015/16. It is proposed to retain 7 places as reserved spaces in the school for children moving into the school zone until June 2016. This caps the school to accept placing requests up to 210 places.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the new policy outlined in section 5 of this report may result in an increase in transportation costs but this cannot be determined at this stage. Any costs arising

will be contained within the resources available to the People Directorate in the appropriate year.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from the consideration of this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues contained in this report do fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective and an equalities impact assessment has been undertaken.

The following background paper was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report:
Determining Primary School Capacity, Guidance 24 October, 2014.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0046/00461513.pdf>

Appendix one: Summary of Primary school Capacities

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Appendix 1 - Comparison of Projected School Roll and Capacity

Primary School	Planning Capacity	Working Capacity	Projected Roll 2015/16	Pupil Roll as % of Planning Capacity	Pupil Roll as % of Working Capacity
Aberlemno	50	50	18	36.0%	36.0%
Airlie	75	75	37	49.3%	49.3%
Andover	393	380	277	70.5%	72.9%
Arbirlot	50	50	20	40.0%	40.0%
Auchterhouse	67	67	40	59.7%	59.7%
Birkhill	321	300	239	74.5%	79.7%
Borrowfield ¹	306	297	230	75.2%	77.4%
Burnside	485	485	411	84.7%	84.7%
Carlogie	434	434	360	82.9%	82.9%
Carmyllie	98	99	14	14.3%	14.1%
Colliston	75	75	62	82.7%	82.7%
Cortachy	46	46	31	67.4%	67.4%
Eassie	50	50	14	28.0%	28.0%
Edzell	100	100	71	71.0%	71.0%
Ferryden	217	188	127	58.5%	67.6%
Friockheim	210	183	125	59.5%	68.3%
Glamis	75	75	60	80.0%	80.0%
Grange	459	459	363	79.1%	79.1%
Hayshead	489	473	447	91.4%	94.5%
Inverarity	75	75	26	34.7%	34.7%
Inverbrothock²	390	404	391	100.2%	96.8%
Inverkeillor	100	100	71	71.0%	71.0%
Isla	75	75	36	48.0%	48.0%
Ladyloan	434	421	243	56.0%	57.7%
Langlands	453	453	437	96.5%	96.5%
Letham	208	208	154	74.0%	74.0%
Lethnot	25	25	4	16.0%	16.0%
Liff	125	132	109	87.2%	82.6%
Lochside	441	441	389	88.2%	88.2%
Maisondieu	459	459	371	80.8%	80.8%
Mattocks	75	75	70	93.3%	93.3%
Monikie	100	108	87	87.0%	80.6%
Muirfield	434	434	164	37.8%	37.8%
Murroes	116	116	106	91.4%	91.4%
Newbigging	50	50	30	60.0%	60.0%
Newtyle	100	100	69	69.0%	69.0%

Primary School	Planning Capacity	Working Capacity	Projected Roll 2015/16	Pupil Roll as % of Planning Capacity	Pupil Roll as % of Working Capacity
Northmuir	418	414	345	82.5%	83.3%
Rosemount	226	226	194	89.4%	85.8%
Seaview	434	421	314	72.4%	74.6%
Southesk	262	255	187	71.4%	73.3%
Southmuir	368	310	214	58.2%	69.0%
St Margaret's	50	50	38	76.0%	76.0%
St Thomas'	125	125	118	94.4%	94.4%
Stracathro	25	25	15	60.0%	60.0%
Strathmartine	50	50	31	62.0%	62.0%
Strathmore	434	426	320	73.7%	75.1%
Tannadice	267	267	55	20.6%	20.6%
Tarfside	25	25	5	20.0%	1.9%
Tealing	75	82	53	70.7%	64.6%
Timmergreens	217	217	220	101.4%	101.4%
Warddykes	374	342	270	72.2%	78.9%
Whitehills	478	478	423	92.2%	88.5%
Woodlands	217	217	207	95.4%	95.4%
Total	11,705	11,478	8,712		

The schools in bold meet the criteria to set school roll caps

¹ Borrowfield capacities are lower than usual temporarily to account for planned building work.

²The working capacity at Inverbrothock is based on 1.7m per pupil with 14 reserved places