

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 25 April 2019

PRIMARY SCHOOL CAPACITIES

REPORT BY PAULINE STEPHEN, DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS & LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report provides details of the planning and working capacities, and the projected rolls of primary schools for 2019/20 (as at 25 March 2019). It seeks approval to extend or remove the roll caps on the rolls of identified schools.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) Approves the updated school capacities for Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools;
- (ii) Instructs officers to undertake a review of the published capacities;
- (ii) Removes the cap on Whitehills Primary School; and
- (iii) Approves the capping of the roll at Mattocks, Timmergreens, Warddykes and Woodlands Primary Schools

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

The best start in life for children

An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council uses the Scottish Government guidance, 'Determining Primary School Capacity,' as the basis for calculating primary school capacity. In Angus the capacity of each school is assessed on its own merits, dependent on design, core facilities and effective delivery of the curriculum. Primary capacities were last approved in full in April 2015 (Report [141/15](#) refers). The majority of these capacities are unchanged since the initial report. Following the opening of two new schools, it is necessary to update capacities for a small number of premises.
- 3.2 Reference is made to Paragraph 5 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 02 April 2015 where Members approved the principles of establishing reserved places and capping school rolls. It also requested an annual report from the Head of Schools and Learning regarding the school capacities for the following school session. The most recent report was considered by Committee in April 2018 (Report [127/18](#) refers).
- 3.3 The autumn projections are based on information as at 25 March 2019. These figures take into account any placing requests made to Angus schools. The projections also make an assumption that all pupils entitled to defer entry to Primary 1 will do so. This is a matter of parental choice. The full projections are detailed at Appendix 1. This report looks only at those schools at or near the cap level.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Each primary school has been assessed on its design, core facilities and effective delivery of the curriculum. The capacity profile for each school shows the planning and working capacity of each school. Planning capacity is used when determining potential future developer contributions arising from new housing development. The working capacity relates to the most effective class configuration of each school for session 2019/20. There are occasions when some of our schools are using general purpose rooms as classrooms. It is our aspiration to use rooms as they were originally intended. In establishing whether a cap should be set we will use the working capacity based on using only classrooms. The working capacity is used to assess placing requests.
- 4.2 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. In such cases, applications for admission to the school are prioritised on the following basis:

Entitlement: *Children whose home address is within the school's delineated area*

Priority 1: *Children whose address is outside the delineated area but who have a brother or sister already attending the school. (This can sometimes include another relative who lives permanently at the same address)*

Priority 2: *Children whose home address is not within the school's delineated area and who do not have a brother or sister already attending the school*

As agreed by Children and Learning Committee on 29 January 2019, catchment areas are no longer used as a priority category for allocating Early Learning and Childcare places. Attending a school nursery does not imply automatic enrolment at the same primary school.

- 4.3 When a school roll reaches 90% of the working capacity, an in-depth analysis of the roll and projection is undertaken. Approval is sought from Committee to cap the roll when a roll reaches 95% of working capacity (or when 5 or fewer places remain). The roll will be capped at working capacity less the reserved places. Reserved places are retained for children who may move into the catchment area over the course of the year.

Number of Classes	Reserved Places
Fewer than 5 Classes	5
5 – 7 Classes	7
7 – 10 Classes	10
11 – 14 Classes	14

- 4.4 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. PROPOSALS

Primary Capacities

- 5.1 The working capacities for Ladyloan and Muirfield Primary Schools are noted in Report 141/15 as 421 and 434 respectively. In January 2019 the Council opened new facilities to replace the existing buildings. Both replacement schools have been built to the agreed standard of 11 classrooms, comprising a mixture of straight classes and composites. The effective working capacity for each school should therefore be revised to 335. The current roll of Ladyloan is 262 and Muirfield is 192 (as at 01 April 2019).

- 5.2 It is now four years since the last complete review of capacities for the primary learning estate. It is proposed that an update exercise be completed during session 2019/20 to refresh the published capacities and provide further clarification on the methodology. If approved, it is proposed to bring a further report back to Committee early in 2020.

Roll Capping and Reserved Places

- 5.3 Approval is sought to remove the cap on Whitehills Primary School and to cap the rolls of Mattocks, Timmergreens, Warddykes and Woodlands Primary Schools.

5.3.1 Roll Capping at Whitehills Primary School

Based on the use of designated classrooms only, Whitehills has a working capacity of 434. This figure excludes the Gaelic Medium Unit (GMU) which is a separate room where other children cannot be accommodated. In 2018/19 it was proposed to retain 14 reserved places in the school for children moving into the catchment area. The roll was therefore capped at 420 with a commitment to manage the roll downwards. The projected roll for 2019/20, excluding the GMU, is 397 pupils. This is below the cap level of 420. It is therefore proposed to remove the cap at Whitehills.

5.3.2 Roll Capping at Mattocks Primary School

Mattocks Primary School has a working capacity of 75, based on the use of designated classrooms only. Mattocks does not have a general purpose room suitable for classroom use. The current projected roll for 2019/20 is 73. The school will therefore be operating at 97.3% of its working capacity. It is proposed to retain five places for pupils moving into the catchment area during session 2019/20. The roll is therefore effectively capped at 70. It is our intention to manage the roll down to the cap level. On this basis, **Priority 2** placing requests for this school will be refused.

5.3.3 Roll Capping at Timmergreens Primary School

If only using designated classrooms, the working capacity of Timmergreens is 217. The roll for 2019/20 is currently forecast to be 207, which is slightly above the 95% threshold. In a school of this size it is our policy to retain ten spaces for pupils moving into the catchment area.

In light of this, it is proposed to cap the roll at 207 for 2019/20. **Priority 2** placing requests for this school will be refused.

5.3.4 Roll Capping at Warddykes Primary School

Based on the use of designated classrooms only, the working capacity of Warddykes is 319. The projected roll for 2019/20 is currently 314 which means the school will be operating at 98.4% of its working capacity. It is our policy for schools of this size to retain 14 places for pupils moving into the catchment area. It is therefore recommended that the roll is capped at 305 for session 2019/20. On this basis any **Priority 2** placing requests will be refused.

5.3.5 Roll Capping at Woodlands Primary School

Based on the use of designated classrooms only, the working capacity of Woodlands is 217. In a school of this size it is our policy to retain ten places at the school for pupils moving into the catchment area. This gives an effective working capacity of 207. The projected roll for 2019/20 is 228 and the school has converted a general purpose room to use as a classroom. It is our aspiration to manage the roll downwards to ensure all pupils can benefit from the use of the general purpose room in the school. The Schools and Learning service is currently investigating options to reconfigure available space within the school to accommodate pupils. The proposals will not increase capacity so it is recommended that the school roll is capped at 207 for session 2019/20. In line with this decision, any **Priority 2** placing requests to the school will be refused.

5.4 Analysis of Placing Requests for Capped Schools

The following table shows the numbers of Priority 2 requests granted at the capped schools in the past three years. Warddykes in particular has seen a high number of requests. The table includes placing requests for all stages, P1-P7. Data is not included for Mattocks due to the small size of the school.

School	Priority 2 Requests 16/17	Priority 2 Requests 17/18	Priority 2 Requests 18/19*
Timmergreens	0	2	1
Warddykes	3	10	8
Woodlands	7	2	2

*Requests received as at 26 March 2019

As noted above, the Council makes every effort to grant placing requests in line with parental choice. In limited circumstances, such as those detailed in this report, requests will be declined. Our rationale for doing so is to ensure we are able to make the best use of our learning estate and in particular ensure spaces are used for their intended purpose. The Schools and Learning service works closely to support schools with this process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As noted, Schools and Learning is currently considering options to reconfigure Woodlands Primary School. It is anticipated that any associated cost will be met through Developer Contributions.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Paragraph 5 of the minute of meeting of the Children and Learning Committee of 02 April 2015

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Appendix 1 – Primary School Capacities

Primary School	Planning Capacity	Working Capacity 2019/20	Projected Roll 2019/20	Roll as % of Working Capacity	Proposed Cap
Aberlemno	50	50	16	32%	
Airlie	75	75	38	51%	
Andover	393	380	247	65%	
Arbirlot	50	50	28	56%	
Auchterhouse	67	67	27	40%	
Birkhill	321	300	233	78%	
Borrowfield	306	297	245	82%	
Burnside	485	485	412	85%	
Carlogie	434	434	320	74%	
Carmyllie	98	99	26	26%	
Colliston	75	75	51	68%	
Cortachy	46	46	21	46%	
Eassie	50	50	11	22%	
Edzell	100	100	84	84%	
Ferryden	217	188	137	73%	
Friockheim	210	183	116	63%	
Glamis	75	75	68	91%	
Grange	459	459	345	75%	
Hayshead	501	501	464	93%	
Inverarity	75	75	32	43%	
Inverbrothock	414	414	353	85%	
Inverkeilor	100	100	73	73%	
Isla	75	75	41	55%	
Ladyloan	335	335	254	76%	
Langlands	456	456	421	92%	
Letham	208	208	162	78%	
Liff	125	132	89	67%	
Lochside	441	441	382	87%	
Maisondieu	459	459	401	87%	
Mattocks	75	75	75	97%	70
Monikie	100	108	81	75%	
Muirfield	335	335	204	61%	
Murroes	116	116	96	83%	
Newbigging	50	50	18	36%	
Newtyle	100	100	63	63%	
Northmuir	418	414	348	84%	
Rosemount	226	226	188	83%	
Seaview	434	421	365	87%	
Southesk	262	255	211	83%	
Southmuir	368	310	191	62%	
St Margaret's	50	50	34	68%	
St Thomas'	125	125	107	86%	
Stracathro	25	25	15	60%	
Strathmartine	50	50	42	84%	
Strathmore	434	426	338	79%	
Tannadice	267	267	65	24%	
Tealing	75	82	37	45%	
Timmergreens	217	217*	207	95%	207
Warddykes	319	319*	314	98%	305
Whitehills	434	434	397	91%	
Woodlands	217	217*	228	105%	207

*Capacity excluding general purpose rooms