

Tony Smith
Director of Education, Arts and Libraries

To: Principals/Headteachers of all Primary/Secondary
and Special Schools

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My ref: AGS/PMc/PRM/SC Please ask for: Paula McCree Fax: 01392 382841 Website: www.devon.gov.uk/eal/schools/capitalstrategy

Dear Colleague

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING – SUFFICIENCY

I refer to my previous letter last summer which outlined the proposed timetable for Sufficiency. Following additional guidance from DfES I thought it would be useful to update you on the current position concerning the Sufficiency element of Asset Management Planning (AMP).

In the context of AMPs, sufficiency includes two separate types of assessment:

- measurements of overall area – this will apply to all schools and covers team game and playing field area, total site area, teaching area, net area and gross area of buildings;
- measurements of pupil places, or capacity will only apply to primary and secondary schools.

The principal method of assessing schools is currently based on More Open Enrolment (MOE) method but with effect from mid Autumn 2002 will be based on a new method of assessment to be known as 'net capacity'. Please note that this is a revised date, previously it was expected that the implementation date was due to be June 2002.

The introduction of these new net capacity measurements will help to ensure national consistency as authorities develop their AMPs over time and will help to identify funding needs. The new method of Net Capacity allows for:

- all usable spaces to be measured;
- not affected by pupils with statements;
- not affected by size of sixth form;
- relates to sensible admission number;

- realistic long term allowances for pupils with SEN or disabilities.

Net capacity will be used to inform Basic Need and School Organisation Plans for September 2003, pupil admissions January 2003 for September 2004, Statutory Proposals September 2002 and Surplus Places pilot in November 2002.

More detailed guidance is available from DfES publications, telephone 0845 6022260 and quote the following references:

- Ref 'Net Capacity';
- Ref AMP 5 – Sufficiency assessment.

Alternatively you may wish to contact the DfES website www.dfes.gov.uk/netcapacity.

You may find it useful to obtain a copy of these booklets prior to receiving details of your school's new net capacity assessment.

If however you experience any difficulties in obtaining a copy of this information then please contact pmccree@devon.gov.uk, Asset Management Plan Officer, Capital Strategy team.

The LEA is now in the final stages of completing the Net Capacity assessments for all primary and secondary schools. The majority of schools have been completed and a percentage sample is now undergoing a verification exercise by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA). The VOA has been appointed on behalf of DfES to verify our data and some schools would have recently received a visit.

Following completion of this exercise, which is hoped to be end of May or early June 2002, we will send a copy of the new Net Capacity assessment to your school for approval. Further information and guidance will be available for schools at that time.

I shall be writing to you again in due course with details on your school's individual Net Capacity assessment.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd) Tony Smith