



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 13 October 2009

Report Title: **Admissions to Schools – Approval to consult.**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):

Report of: **Director of the Children and Young People's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To request Cabinet's approval to consult on the arrangements for admission to community primary and secondary schools and to St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled School for the 2011/12 school year.
- 1.2 To request approval to consult on the arrangements for admission to sixth form study at Alexandra Park School, the Highgate/Hornsey Sixth Form Consortium and the Haringey Sixth Form Centre for the 2011/12 school year.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1 This report concerns the admission arrangements to be published and implemented for the 2011/12 school year by the Council as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Haringey.
- 2.2 It includes admission arrangements to nursery classes in Haringey community primaries and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled primary school, and admission arrangements to Sixth Forms in Haringey community secondary schools and the Sixth Form Centre.
- 2.3 Consultation on admission issues is an annual requirement for local authorities under Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 2.4 This report is timed so that consultation with governing bodies of community schools can take place before wider consultation is initiated. This is to ensure that a timely report on the consultation outcomes is available to the Cabinet in March 2010.
- 2.5 In April 2009 the new Admissions Code of Practice was introduced and this means

that from 2010, uniform arrangements will apply to parents when applying for a primary or secondary school place. They will only ever need to apply to the local authority in which they live and we have specified national closing dates for primary and secondary applications.

2.6 Cabinet is therefore asked to note that a national offer date for reception class admissions has now been agreed in principle and the specific date is awaited. Cabinet is also asked to note that the Haringey Admissions Service is required to co-ordinate all in-year admissions to schools from 1 September 2010.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To approve for consultation the proposed admission arrangements for all community nursery classes, primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School for the 2011/12 school year.

3.2 To approve for consultation the proposed consultation on admission arrangements for students starting sixth form study in Haringey in September 2011.

Report Authorised by:



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Director
The Children and Young People's Service

Contact Officer:

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4. Chief Financial Officers Comments

4.1 School Budgets are based largely on the actual number of pupils on a school's roll at the Annual School Census date. Changes to the Planned Admission Number (PAN) will cause budget variations only to the extent that they themselves lead to changes in the actual number of pupils on roll.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The report itself sets out the statutory requirement for consultation regarding the admission arrangements to be determined by the Council as admission authority for the schools indicated in the report and its appendices.

5.2 The proposals set out generally in the report and appendices, including those for admission numbers, oversubscription criteria and co-ordinated arrangements, comply with the statutory requirements on the Council, including those required by the School Admissions Code.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Section 89 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Education Act 2002
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Secondary Schools) (England) Regulations 2008
- The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2008
- The Education (Admissions Appeals Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009
- The School Admissions Code (2009)
- The School Admissions Appeals Code (2009)

7. Strategic Implications

7.1 Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated Regulations require admission authorities to consult annually on their admission arrangements for the following academic year. The Children and Young People's Service gives advice to governing bodies who are the admission authorities for other maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey (i.e. St Thomas More Catholic School, The John Loughborough School, Fortismere School and Greig City Academy). Consultation for all admission authorities should be completed by 1 March 2010, and determined by 15 April 2010. However, we are seeking to consult earlier than in previous years in order to report back to Cabinet on time in early March.

7.2 The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2011 intake.

8. Admission arrangements for the 2011/12 school year – secondary schools

8.1 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community schools in Haringey are attached as **Appendices 1 to 5**. These are fully compliant with advice given in the School Admissions Code and no changes are proposed.

9. Admission arrangements for the 2011/12 school year – primary schools

- 9.1 Appendix 1 shows the oversubscription criteria applied to nursery classes attached to primary schools. These arrangements are used where there are more applications than places for full time provision to ensure children most in need are targeted.
- 9.2 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools in Haringey are attached as Appendix 2, and are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code. No changes are proposed for the September 2011 intake.

10. Co-ordinated Admissions – secondary schools

- 10.1 The oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in Haringey are attached as Appendix 3. The Pan-London co-ordinated scheme for children transferring from primary to secondary school is about to enter its fifth year.

11. In-Year (Casual) Admissions

- 11.1 The arrangements for in-year admissions to all schools in Haringey are attached as Appendix 4. Current arrangements for 'in year' admissions (i.e. admission at stages other than at entry to reception classes or on transfer from primary to secondary school) will use the same oversubscription criteria described in appendices 1 and 2 (Hornsey School for Girls will follow the same oversubscription criteria as other Haringey community secondary schools). Priority for admission to secondary schools (not primary) is given to children without school places over those transferring from other schools. This policy is to ensure priority is given to the most vulnerable children. It is not proposed to change this arrangement.
- 11.2 In the report to Cabinet in March 2009, there was uncertainty about whether all schools have to participate in the In Year Fair Access Protocol. This has now been clarified with the DCSF and it has confirmed that the Protocol is binding on all schools.

12. Admissions to Sixth Form Study in Haringey

12.1 Appendix 5 outlines the proposed admission arrangements for community school sixth form provision in Haringey, namely Alexandra Park School, the Highgate / Hornsey Consortium, and the new Haringey Sixth Form Centre. The School Admissions Code permits that elements of academic selection in admission arrangements at this level. Haringey Council is the admission authority and therefore must approve the admission arrangements. Applications from prospective students are made directly to each individual provider who will administer the agreed admission arrangements.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and implementing Regulations require Local Education Authorities to consult on their admission arrangements annually. The recommendations included in this report incorporate advice contained within the DCSF School Admissions Code.

14. Recommendations

14.1 To approve for consultation the proposed admission arrangements for all community nursery classes, primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School for the 2011/12 school year.

14.2 To approve for consultation the proposed consultation on admission arrangements for students starting sixth form study in Haringey in September 2011.

15. Equalities Implications

15.1 The current oversubscription criteria for Haringey community schools and the advice given to governors of schools who are their own admission authority (Appendix 1) comply with the advice given in the DCSF School Admissions Code of Practice. The Code has due regard to the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000), and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001).

16. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 Starting nursery in Haringey in September 2011.

Appendix 2 Starting reception class in Haringey September 2011.

Appendix 3 Starting secondary school in Haringey in September 2011.

Appendix 4 Starting school during the year in Haringey 2011/12

Appendix 5 Starting sixth form in Haringey in September 2011.