



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 23 March 2010

Report Title: **Admissions to Schools – Determined Arrangements for 2011/12**

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 approval for the proposed arrangements for admission to community primary and secondary schools and to St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled School for the 2011/12 school year following the recent consultation.
- 1.2 To request approval for the proposed 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 following recent consultation.


2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1 This report details the statutory requirements for admission to primary, secondary and sixth form study. I am confident that we have followed the appropriate national guidance in drawing up the proposals.
- 2.2 I have asked officers to monitor the impact of the changes put forward in the report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve 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 the proposed admission arrangements for students starting sixth form study in Haringey in September 2011.

Report Authorised by:



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4. Chief Financial Officers Comments

- 4.1 The Authority only receives funding for those pupils actually on a roll of a school at the time of the January census point. Consequently there is a potential loss of funding in respect of those pupils where a "deferred place" must be held.
- 4.2 The Authority's funding formula does provide some support to schools where Key Stage 1 classes are deemed to be "small; the cost of which is shared across all schools.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The proposed arrangements are ones that comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code of February 2009 and the framework set out in statute and in statutory instruments.

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 on their admission arrangements at least every three years and in any year in which significant variations are being considered.

- 7.2 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 (for example St Thomas More Catholic School, The John Loughborough School, Fortismere School and Greig City Academy). However, these "own admission authorities" are responsible for their own consultation process and their determination. Then all determined arrangements will be published on the Haringey website for access by the public.
- 7.3 Approval to consult on the proposed Determined Arrangements for 2011/12 was given by the Cabinet in October 2009. Subsequent consultation was completed by 22 January 2010. The attached appendices incorporate the feedback from this process and are presented with this report for approval. They also reflect some minimal aspects highlighted in the Annual Report of the Schools' Adjudicator, although a revised Admissions Code is expected and subsequent requirements will be incorporated into the arrangements for the 2012/13 school year.
- 7.4 The Determined Arrangements for 2011/12 must be approved by the Cabinet by 15 April 2010 and then published within 14 days.
- 7.5 The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2011 intake.

8. Admissions to Nursery and Reception Classes to Community Primary Schools and St. Aidans VC School.

- 8.1 Sir Jim Rose completed his review of the primary curriculum in April 2009 and recommended that children should ideally start school in the September following their fourth birthday.
- 8.2 Haringey has been promoting this practice for some while as a means to maximising the educational achievement for the children who attend its schools. However, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator has commented that the Haringey practice to admit all reception children in a single intake in the September of their fifth year cannot be imposed and the wording given for 2010/11 was in breach of the Admissions Code. The admission Code states that if a parent wishes to defer their child's entry to school until the actual legal requirement, then a place must be held for that child and therefore it is not available to be offered to another child (Admissions Code 2.69).
- 8.3 The proposed Determined Arrangements given in Appendix 1 have been amended to reflect the requirement of the Admissions Code.
- 8.4 However, this provision in the Code can result in disadvantages for schools and possibly other children. When a place must be kept open for a child, it is possible that a school may not receive the age-weighted pupil funding in circumstances when a child is not on the school roll at the time of the January census which determines the school budget. It is also possible for a parent/carer to be 'reserving' a reception place in these circumstances at more than one school which means that another child may be denied a place there. The local authority and the governors of schools will not know of any such deferment until the offer of a school place has been made. Nonetheless, the implications of this requirement for schools could be a point to be included in the next annual report to the Schools Adjudicator in the summer 2010. In information to

parents, we would expect to not emphasise this change.

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

9.1 No substantial changes have been made as shown in Appendix 3. However, the authority's right to withdraw the offer of a school place in circumstances when there has been a fraudulent attempt to gain a school place has been sharpened following a great deal of national and media interest in such practices.

10. Co-ordinated In-Year (formerly called Casual) Admissions

10.1 This type of admission can be the most difficult and problematic and there can be long delays in admitting children to schools during the school year. The attached Appendix 4 has been substantially altered to make the requirements for all participants in the process more explicit and to reduce the amount of time a pupil may be out of school.

10.2 The In Year Fair Access Protocol has also been reviewed in the light of its functioning over the last year and is attached with Appendix 4. The changes are largely about clarifying and defining vulnerable pupils more effectively to ensure that they fall within the scope of the scheme and that they achieve appropriate school placements more effectively.

11. Admissions to Sixth Form Study in Haringey

11.1 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 can be used 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.

11.2 The Admissions Code requires that sixth form entry must include the minimum number of external candidates to be admitted and this has been made clearer as shown in Appendix 5.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and implementing Regulations require Local Education Authorities to determine their admission arrangements annually. The recommendations included in this report incorporate advice contained within the DCSF School Admissions Code, the Pan London Admissions Executive Board and feedback from the recent consultation process.

13. Recommendations

- 13.1 To approve 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.
- 13.2 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for students starting sixth form study in Haringey in September 2011.

14. Equalities Implications

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. 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).

15. 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.

