

**Executive**

**On 19 December 2006**

Report Title: **Admissions to Schools – Approval to Consult**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): N/A

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

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To request the Executive'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 2008/09 school year.
- 1.2 To request the Executive's approval to consult on the arrangements for admission to the new sixth form centre and school sixth forms, including the changes proposed by Fortismere Governors.

### **2. Introduction by Executive Member**

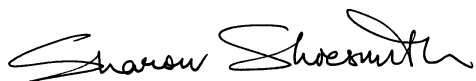
- 2.1 This report concerns the admission arrangements to be published and implemented for the 2008/09 school year by the Council as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Haringey. It includes admission arrangements to nursery classes in Haringey community primaries and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled primary school, and admission arrangements to Sixth Forms in Haringey community secondary schools and the new Sixth Form Centre. (The sixth forms which have operated in Gladesmore, Woodside High and Park View Academy will close from September 2007 and their sixth form provision will be relocated to the new Sixth Form Centre).
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The main areas are the qualifying schemes for the co-ordination of admission to reception classes and entry to Year 7 at secondary transfer, the results of the first year of eAdmissions and implementation of the Hard to Place Students' Protocol.
- 2.4 Executive is particularly asked to note the success of eAdmissions which has gone beyond the Government's target for the first year, and the pilot exercise seeking placements under the Hard to Place Students' Protocol pending full agreement from

all admission authorities in the area.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation for all community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- 3.2 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation for sixth form provision in Alexandra Park School, the Highgate/Hornsey Consortium and the new Sixth Form Centre.
- 3.3 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation put forward by Fortismere School Governors that would change their entry arrangements to the Sixth Form from 5+ A\*-C to 5+ A\*-B grades.
- 3.4 To approve the proposed consultation for Qualifying Schemes for the co-ordination of arrangements for admission to reception classes in all maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey. At secondary level, this entails the Council's continued participation in the Pan-London Scheme.

Report Authorised by:



**Sharon Shoemith,  
Director  
Children and Young People's Service**

Contact Officer: **Ian Bailey, Deputy Director (020 8489 4601) and Sheila Locke, Head of Admissions (020 8489 8350)**

### **4. Executive Summary**

- 4.1 This report seeks the Executive's approval to conduct the annual consultation on arrangements for admission to Haringey community primary and secondary schools as required under Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
- 4.2 The Education Act 2002 required Local Authorities to introduce co-ordinated arrangements for admission to Year 7 for all maintained secondary schools in their area from September 2005. Haringey is part of the Pan-London System which was first introduced for the September 2005 intake and which had considerable success for secondary school admissions in the borough. The Pan-London System is now into its third successful year and it is recommended that this arrangements should continue for the 2008/09 school year.
- 4.3 This report includes proposed admission arrangements for admission to sixth forms in Haringey community schools and the Haringey Sixth Form Centre. The Executive is

asked to consider whether to approve the arrangements, and in particular to consider proposals from the Fortismere Governing Body for sixth form admission arrangements for the 2008/09 school year.

4.4 The first successful co-ordinated system of admission to reception classes was undertaken last year. It is recommended that similar arrangements are carried forward to the 2008/09 school year.

4.5 The Haringey Admissions Forum is due to meet on 25 January 2007 to consider these proposals.

4.6 The Executive is asked to note that the proposed arrangements take into consideration the requirements of the new DfES School Admissions Code currently under consultation.

## **5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

5.1 It is not proposed to change the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled schools in Haringey. However, the Executive is asked to note the addition of consultation regarding admission arrangements to sixth form provision and to nursery classes in Haringey community primary schools.

## **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 2007
- The School Admissions Code of Practice (DfES/0031/2003)
- Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools) (England) Regulations 2007

## **7. Background**

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. Haringey Education Services gives advice to governing bodies who are the admission authorities for other maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey (i.e. voluntary aided schools and Greig City Academy). Consultation for all admission authorities must be completed by 1 March 2007, and determined by 15 April 2007. The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2008 intake.

## **8. Description**

### **Admission arrangements for the 2008/09 school year – secondary schools**

- 8.1 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in Haringey are attached as Appendices 1 and 2, and are fully compliant with advice given in the current and proposed Codes of Practice. No changes are proposed for the September 2008 intake.

## **Admission arrangements for the 2008/09 school year – primary schools**

- 8.2 Appendix 3 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.
- 8.3 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools in Haringey is attached as Appendix 4, and are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code of Practice. No changes are proposed for the September 2008 intake.

## **9. Casual Admissions**

- 9.1 The current arrangements for 'casual' 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 normally 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. The Authority is not proposing to make any changes to this arrangement.
- 9.2 The results of the consultation exercise will be reported to the Executive at their meeting in March 2007. The report will be prepared very close to the dispatch deadline as consultation ends on 1 March 2007.

## **10. Co-ordinated Admissions – secondary schools**

- 10.1 The Pan-London co-ordinated scheme for children transferring from primary to secondary school has now entered its third year. The preference success rate for Haringey residents in the last two years is shown below. Although there was a slight rise in the number of parents gaining their first preference, the percentage of applicants who did not gain a place at one of their preferred schools, refused a place at alternative schools with availability and who were therefore allocated places by the Authority (in accordance with statutory duties) also rose slightly.

% of all applicants	School Year	
	2005/06	2006/07
offered their first preference	69	70
offered one of their preferences	95	92
allocated a place at the nearest secondary school with places available	5	8

- 10.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, local authorities are required to establish Choice Advisers who are independent of admissions departments. They will be accredited officers and training and qualifications will be organised through DfES. In Haringey, work is underway to place this service within the

Parental Involvement part of the service. It is envisaged that translation and interpreting services will be expanded and strengthened, possibly sharing the cost and provision of services (but not personnel) with some of our bordering authorities. Initial interest has been expressed by Islington and Camden.

- 10.3 There was a significant fall in the number of appeals when co-ordination was introduced in 2005. Last year the number of appeals fell slightly, but the number upheld also rose. There is no discernable pattern in the reasons for parents' appeals. Some give no reason at all, other than it is their right to do so. The figures for secondary schools are as follows:

	School Year		
	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Number of appeals heard	168	125	123
Number of appeals upheld	11	8	10

- 10.4 However, the issue of meeting preferences remains a complex one. A significant number of parents in make unrealistic preferences despite the information and guidance widely available. It is anticipated that this is an area where Choice Advisers will have an impact.
- 10.5 The proposed scheme for the 2008/09 school year is attached as Appendix 5.

## 11. Co-ordinated admissions – primary schools

- 11.1 The co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey is now in its second year. Last year, the scheme worked well for Haringey residents, with 83% of applicants securing places at their first preference school. In all, 97% of applicants achieved one of their preferences (up to four for each pupil) with 3% being allocated to the nearest available school because they did not achieve any of their preferences. This is either because their applications did not have sufficiently high priority under the published arrangements or the parents had made unrealistic preferences.

The proposed scheme for the 2008/09 school year is attached as Appendix 6.

- 11.2 Both schemes outlined above were discussed at the Forum's last meeting on 16 October 2006 where there were no objections brought forward in relation to either of the proposed schemes.
- 11.3 The number of appeals heard for the 2006 intake (following the introduction of co-ordination) fell. The number upheld also fell, but these figures probably reflect the impact of the legislation on infant class sizes more than any other factor. The figures for 2005 and 2006 are as follows:

	School Year	
	2005/06	2006/07
Number of appeals heard	55	39
Number of appeals upheld	6	1

- 11.4 The planned admission numbers for each community primary and secondary school and St Aidan's voluntary controlled school will be included in the consultation documents.

## **12. eAdmissions**

- 12.1 The government required that the facility for parents to apply for school places on line was put into place by September 2006 for the 2007 intake. It does not apply to all admissions, but for those children entering school in the 'normal admission round', that is applications for places in reception classes and transfer from primary to secondary schools. The eAdmissions system (a single system developed centrally across the entire Pan-London area) went live on 4 September 2006 and parents accessed the on-line applications through the Haringey website. The first year's target for on-line admissions was 5% and 10% in the second year. This equates to 265 and 530 applications respectively. At the closing date for all applications, the total number of on-line applications received was 567. This position has been achieved through very effective advertising across the borough.

## **13. The Hard to Place Students' Protocol.**

- 13.1 The Hard to Place Students' Protocol has been drafted and headteachers consulted. The latest version is shown as Appendix 7. Not all admission authorities have formally agreed, (at the time of writing, specifically The John Loughborough School, Greig City Academy and St Thomas More RC School) and work is progressing to achieve this. However, in the meantime two panels have met and schools have been asked to admit some Year 10 and 11 pupils.
- 13.2 The protocol is a particularly important mechanism for ensuring that pupils are admitted to schools where they would normally be refused because there were no available places. The protocol applies outside the normal admission arrangements, and enables schools to admit pupils above the published admission numbers.

## **14. Entry to Sixth Forms (Years 12 and 13).** (The sixth forms which have operated in Gladesmore, Woodside High and Park View Academy will close from September 2007 and their sixth form provision will be relocated to the new Sixth Form Centre).

- 14.1 Appendices 8, 9, 10 and 11 outline the proposed admission arrangements for sixth form provision in Haringey, namely Alexandra Park School, Fortismere School, the Highgate / Hornsey Consortium, and the new Haringey Sixth Form Centre. Proposals have been invited from individual schools because it is recognised in the current and draft Codes of Practice that elements of academic selection can be included in admission arrangements at this level. Haringey Council is the admission authority and therefore must approve the admission arrangements.

- 14.2 Applications from prospective students are made directly to each individual provider who will administer the agreed admission arrangements.
- 14.3 It is the Local Authority's objective to be as inclusive as possible and to meet the needs of all students including those with complex learning difficulties and disabilities. The sixth form provision offered across the Local Authority therefore includes a wide range of courses from 'A' Level to various types of vocational courses (entry to Level 3).
- 14.4 This wide-ranging provision is intended to increase the number of young people who study post 16. This should also enable schools to offer courses of study that meet the needs of the young people they serve and clear progression routes for 14-19 education. In particular, we want to support each school to prepare for the introduction of the Government's 14-19 reforms, especially the specialist diplomas that engage a wide range of learners thereby improving overall achievement. This is a direct link to the Local Authority's proposal for a stretch target as part of its Local Area Agreement to increase the percentage of 19 years olds achieving Level 2 and 3 qualifications that would improve their employability and ultimately reduce the high levels of worklessness in the borough.

## 15. **Summary and Conclusions**

- 15.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and implementing Regulations require Local Education Authorities to consult on their admission arrangements annually.
- 15.1 The recommendations included in this report incorporate advice contained within the DfES School Admissions Code of Practice and draft Code of Practice which includes the duty for authorities to make appropriate preparation for the introduction of eAdmissions and to consult on and implement a Hard to Place Students' Protocol as per current advice from DfES.

## 16 **Recommendations**

- 16.1 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation for all community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- 16.2 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation for sixth form provision in Alexandra Park School, the Highgate/Hornsey Consortium and the new Sixth Form Centre.
- 16.3 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation put forward by Fortismere School Governors that would change their entry arrangements to the Sixth Form from 5+ A\*-C to 5+ A\*-B grades.
- 16.4 To approve the proposed consultation for Qualifying Schemes for the co-ordination of arrangements for admission to reception classes in all maintained primary and secondary schools in Haringey. At secondary level, this entails the Council's continued participation in the Pan-London Scheme.



## **17 Comments of the Director of Finance (excludes sixth form entry)**

- 17.1 The Director of Corporate Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

## **18 Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

- 18.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The report sets out in detail the legal framework governing the preparation of and consultation on admission arrangements for the schools indicated. Since the admission arrangements take effect for the school year commencing September 2008, the report rightly draws attention to the requirements introduced by the new School Admissions Code, introduced by virtue of the amendment to Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This Code will have effect in that school year, although currently a draft of the document is the subject of consultation. The proposals set out in this report comply with the current statutory requirements of Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and associated Regulations as well as the requirements of the new Code of Practice.

## **19 Equalities Implications**

- 19.1 The current oversubscription criteria for Haringey community schools and the advice given to governors of schools who are their own admission authority (Appendix 1) complies with the advice given in the DfES 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).
- 19.2 The admission arrangements for Hornsey School for Girls ensure that despite its popularity, the Council continues to provide equality of access to girls across Haringey and beyond which is important to sustain as the only maintained girls' school in Haringey.

## **Use of Appendices**

- Appendix 1      Oversubscription criteria for Haringey mixed community secondary schools for the 2008/09 school year (NOT Hornsey School for Girls)
- Appendix 2      Proposed admission arrangements for Hornsey School for Girls for the 2008/09 school year
- Appendix 3      Oversubscription criteria for nursery classes in Haringey community primary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School for the 2008/09 school year
- Appendix 4      Oversubscription criteria for Haringey community primary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School for the 2008/09 school year.
- Appendix 5      Qualifying Scheme for co-ordination of admission to Year 7 in Haringey maintained secondary schools for the 2008/09 school year.
- Appendix 6      Qualifying Scheme for co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey maintained primary schools for the 2008/09 school year
- Appendix 7      Protocol for the admission of Hard to Place Students in Haringey secondary schools
- Appendix 8      Admission to the Sixth Form – Alexandra Park School
- Appendix 9      Admission to Hornsey/Highgate Wood Sixth Form Consortium
- Appendix 10     Admission to Fortismere Sixth Form
- Appendix 11     Admission to the Haringey Sixth Form Centre