



## REPORT TEMPLATE

Agenda item:

**[No.]**

**Cabinet**

**On 16 October 2007**

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 2009/10 school year.

### **2. Introduction by Cabinet Member**

2.1 This report concerns the admission arrangements to be published and implemented for the 2009/10 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. It does not include the admission arrangements for Fortismere School following the governing body's decision to change its status to foundation which means that the governing body has become the admission authority.

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 has been brought forward from December in order for the Authority to consult with governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools before full consultation in January 2008, in accordance with current Regulations.

### **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 Sixth Form Centre.
- 3.3 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 of the 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. Director of Finance Comments**

4.1 [click here to type]

### **5. Head of Legal Services Comments**

[click here to type]

### **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 (2007)
- Education (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (Primary Schools) (England) Regulations 2007

### **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. Haringey Education Services 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 2008, and determined by 15 April 2008. The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2009 intake.

## **8. Admission arrangements for the 2009/10 school year – secondary schools**

- 8.1 The current oversubscription criteria for admission to mixed 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. We are not proposing any changes.

## **9. Admission arrangements for the 2009/10 school year – primary schools**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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 2009 intake.

## **10. Casual Admissions**

- 10.1 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. We are not proposing to make any changes to this arrangement.

## 11. Co-ordinated Admissions – secondary schools

- 11.1 The Pan-London co-ordinated scheme for children transferring from primary to secondary school is about to enter its fourth year. The preference success rate for Haringey residents in the last two years is shown below (these figures are correct – there has been no change in the success rate).

% of all applicants	School Year	
	2006/07	2007/08
offered their first preference	70	70
offered one of their preferences	92	92
allocated a place at the nearest secondary school with places available	8	8

This compares favourably with, for example, Hackney whose percentage of first preferences for 2007/08 was 63.7% achieving their first preference and 87.9% achieving one of their preferences. For the 2006/07 intake, 63% of Hackney residents achieved their first preference.

- 11.2 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 DCFS. In Haringey, appointments to these posts (named School Transfer Advisers in Haringey) have been made (two 0.5 officers at grade PO3), and they will take up their posts in September 2007.
- 11.3 There was a significant fall in the number of appeals when co-ordination was introduced in 2005. Last year the number of appeals increased. The reasons for this are complex, including the fact that admissions circles for the most popular schools were smaller than the year before. The number of appeals upheld also appears to have sharply risen, but it must be remembered that 17 of these appeals relate to Fortismere School alone. The figures for secondary schools are as follows:

	2006/07	2007/08
Number of appeals heard	123	171

Number of appeals upheld	10	19
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11.4 There is still a significant number of parents who make unrealistic preferences despite the information and guidance widely available. It is anticipated that this is an area where Secondary Transfer Advisers will have an impact in the future.

11.5 The proposed scheme for the 2009/10 school year is attached as Appendix 5.

## 12. Co-ordinated admissions – primary schools

12.1 The co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey is about to start its third year. Figures below show the preference success rate in Haringey. A small number of parents are still not achieving any of their preferences This can be because their applications did not have sufficiently high priority under the published arrangements, parents had only named one preference, limiting their chances, or the parents had made unrealistic preferences.

% of all applicants	School Year	
	2006/07	2007/08
offered their first preference	81	82
offered one of their preferences	97	96
allocated a place at the nearest secondary school with places available	3	4

The proposed scheme for the 2009/10 school year is attached as Appendix 6.

12.2 Although the number of appeals heard for the 2007 intake increased, none was upheld demonstrating the effects of Infant Class Size legislation on admission appeals. The figures for 2006 and 2007 are as follows:

	School Year	
	2006/07	2007/08
Number of appeals heard	39	55
Number of appeals upheld	1	0

- 12.3 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.

### **13. eAdmissions**

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 The government target for the September 2008 intake is 10%, but we are aiming towards 20%.

### **14. The In-Year Fair Access Protocol.**

- 14.1 The In-Year Fair Access Protocol has been drafted and headteachers consulted. The latest version is shown as Appendix 7.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 All maintained schools in Haringey have agreed to participate in the protocol.

## **15. Entry to Sixth Forms (Years 12 and 13).**

- 15.1 Appendices 8, 9 and 10 outline the proposed admission arrangements for 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.
- 15.2 Applications from prospective students are made directly to each individual provider who will administer the agreed admission arrangements.

## **16. Conclusion**

- 16.1 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and implementing Regulations require Local Education Authorities to consult on their admission arrangements annually.
- 16.2 The recommendations included in this report incorporate advice contained within the DCSF School Admissions Code which includes the duty for authorities to make appropriate preparation for the introduction of eAdmissions and to consult on and implement a In-Year Fair Access Protocol as per current advice from DCSF.

## **17. Recommendations**

- 17.1 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for consultation for all community primary and secondary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 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.

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

- 18.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted on the contents of this report and has no comments to make as there are no financial implications arising from the report.

## **19. Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

- 19.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 89(2) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires all admission authorities to consult on the content of their admission arrangements. Regulations require that, for the school year commencing September 2009, such consultation shall be completed by 1 March 2008 and the arrangements determined by 15 April 2008. The report sets out the statutory framework for the admission arrangements proposed for

consultation, including the statutory School Admissions Code, which came into force in February 2007. These arrangements comply with the statutory framework. In particular the priority given to looked after children reflects the duty on an admission authorities to give such children the highest priority. In addition the authority is required to have an In-Year Fair Access Protocol in place from September 2007. The proposals referred to in the report concerning the appointment of Choice Advisers reflects the new duty on the authority, under Section 86(1A) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, to provide advice and assistance to parents regarding their expression of preferences within the admission arrangements for that area.

## **20. Equalities Implications**

- 20.1 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).

## **21. Use of Appendices**

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|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1  | Oversubscription criteria for Haringey mixed community secondary schools for the 2009/10 school year. (NOT Hornsey School for Girls)             |
| Appendix 2  | Oversubscription criteria for Hornsey School for Girls for the 2009/10 school year                                                               |
| Appendix 3  | Oversubscription criteria for nursery classes in Haringey community primary schools and St Aidan's Voluntary Controlled School.                  |
| Appendix 4  | Oversubscription criteria for Haringey community primary schools and St Aidan's voluntary controlled primary school for the 2009/10 school year. |
| Appendix 5  | Draft Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of admission to Year 7 in Haringey maintained secondary schools in the 2009/10 school year         |
| Appendix 6  | Draft Qualifying Scheme for co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey maintained primary schools for the 2009/10 school year   |
| Appendix 7  | In-Year Fair Access Protocol to place students in Haringey Secondary Schools                                                                     |
| Appendix 8  | Arrangements for admission to Alexandra Park Sixth Form                                                                                          |
| Appendix 9  | Arrangements for admission to the Highgate/Hornsey consortium                                                                                    |
| Appendix 10 | Arrangements for admission to the Haringey Sixth Form Centre                                                                                     |