



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 16 September 2008

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 2010/11 school year.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

2.1 This report concerns the admission arrangements to be published and implemented for the 2010/11 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. Cabinet is also asked to note that it contains admission arrangements for the new community secondary school, Heartlands High School.

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 to consult with governing bodies of community schools before wider consultation takes place, and to ensure a timely report on the consultation outcomes in March 2009.

2.5 Cabinet is asked to note that the DCSF is currently consulting on a number of admissions issues including setting a national offer date for reception class admissions. This could lead to a Pan-London agreement similar to the existing secondary transfer scheme.

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 a Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of transfer from primary to secondary school as a member of the Pan-London consortium.
- 3.4 To approve a Qualifying scheme for the co-ordination of admission to reception classes within Haringey. Cabinet is asked to approve an amended timetable which will bring Haringey into line with five of our six neighbouring authorities. (The exception is Waltham Forest). This will assist parents in making cross-borough applications, and will eliminate some of the late applications received for Haringey primary schools.
- 3.5 To approve a reduction in the published admission number for Woodside High School from 243 pupils to 216 pupils entering Year 7 in September 2010. This reduction is to rationalise the number of secondary school places available with the opening of Heartlands High School, balanced against demand.

Report Authorised by :



Sharon Shoemith
Director
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 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.
- 4.2 The proposed reduction in PAN at Woodside High School will reflect more closely the actual pupil number intake over recent years which the school will have reflected in its structure and therefore budget. As a consequence that change should not in itself cause financial difficulty for the school.

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 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. 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 2009, and determined by 15 April 2009. However, the Authority is seeking to consult earlier than in previous years in order to report back to Cabinet on time in early March.

The new arrangements will then come into effect from the September 2010 intake.

8. Admission arrangements for the 2010/11 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 School Admissions Code and no changes are proposed.

9. Admission arrangements for the 2010/11 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. No changes are proposed for the September 2010 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. It is not proposed to change 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 fifth year. The preference success rate for Haringey residents in the last two years is shown below. The figures have remained fairly consistent

% of all applicants	School Year	
	2007/08	2008/09
offered their first preference	70	67
offered one of their preferences	92	92
allocated a place at the nearest secondary school with places available	8	8

- 11.2 A Transfer Advisor was appointed in September 2007 to advise parents about secondary school applications. Some parents find the admission procedures very difficult to understand, and the advisor can offer parents support that is

independent of the Admissions Team. It is the government's belief that advisors will ensure that parents make realistic preferences, and raise the percentage of pupils who are offered their first preference school.

- 11.3 At the time of writing, the outcome of the appeals for the September 2008 entry were not known. This will be reported to Cabinet as soon as all the hearings have taken place and the independent panels have made their decisions. The number actually heard appears to have fallen, but the appeals for Fortismere have not been included in the 2008/09 total as it is now a foundation school.

	2007/8	2008/9
Number of appeals heard	171	130

- 11.4 There is still a significant number of parents who make unrealistic preferences despite the information and guidance widely available. It is hoped that the Transfer Advisor will have a significant impact on this number, however many parents believe they have a free choice of school for their child.
- 11.5 The proposed scheme for the 2010/11 school year is attached as Appendix 5. Cabinet should kindly note that the Pan-London scheme has yet to be finalised across London. There may be some changes to the timetable, but the fundamental points will stay the same.

12. Co-ordinated admissions – primary schools

- 12.1 The preference success rate in Haringey remains very similar to last year.

% of all applicants	School Year	
	2007/08	2008/09
offered their first preference	82	81
offered one of their preferences	96	95
allocated a place at the nearest primary school with places available	4	5

It is believed that late applications have an important impact on this issue, and the Admissions Team will be looking to improve the position by being far more proactive with nurseries and other pre-school providers from the 2009 intake, but perhaps more

crucially by changing the reception admissions timetable to bring Haringey closer into line with most neighbouring authorities.

The proposed scheme for the 2010/11 school year is attached as Appendix 6.

12.2 The number of appeals heard fell in 2008. This is likely to reflect the fact that infant class size appeals are rarely upheld due to the very limited powers of the independent appeal panels in these cases. It may also be reaction to the fact that none were upheld in 2007/08, and this information was published in the primary booklet. The figures for 2007 and 2008 are as follows:

	School Year	
	2007/08	2008/09
Number of appeals heard	55	38
Number of appeals upheld	0	1

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 target for online admissions for the September 2008 intake was 10%. Although Haringey had aimed for 20% and widely publicised the facility. Although the 20% target was not reached, the number of online applications rose from 11% for the September 2007 intake to 14% for the September 2008 intake.

14. The In-Year Fair Access Protocol.

14.1 At the time of writing, agreement had not been reached with all admission authorities in Haringey with Fortismere governors deciding they were unable to agree the protocol in its current format.

14.2 Failure to agree a protocol across all admission authorities will result in the Authority requesting the Secretary of State to impose a protocol on all parties across Haringey. At the time of writing, the Authority was moving towards making this request from DCSF to resolve the situation.

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

15.1 Appendices 7, 8 and 9 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.

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 Sixth Form Centre.
- 17.3 To approve the proposed consultation for a Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of transfer from primary to secondary school as a member of the Pan-London consortium.
- 17.4 To approve a Qualifying scheme for the co-ordination of admission to reception classes within Haringey. Cabinet is asked to approve an amended timetable which will bring Haringey into line with five of our six neighbouring authorities. (The exception is Waltham Forest). This will assist parents in making cross-borough applications, and will eliminate some of the late applications received for Haringey primary schools.
- 17.5 To approve a reduction in the published admission number for Woodside High School from 243 pupils to 216 pupils entering Year 7 in September 2010. This reduction is to rationalise the number of secondary school places available with the opening of Heartlands High School, balanced against demand.

18. Equalities Implications

- 18.1 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. Use of Appendices

- Appendix 1 Oversubscription criteria for Haringey mixed community secondary schools for the 2010/11 school year. (NOT Hornsey School for Girls)
- Appendix 2 Oversubscription criteria for Hornsey School for Girls for the 2010/11 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 2010/11 school year.
- Appendix 5 Draft Qualifying Scheme for the co-ordination of admission to Year 7 in Haringey maintained secondary schools in the 2010/11 school year
- Appendix 6 Draft Qualifying Scheme for co-ordination of admission to reception classes in Haringey maintained primary schools for the 2010/11 school year
- Appendix 7 Arrangements for admission to Alexandra Park Sixth Form
- Appendix 8 Arrangements for admission to the Highgate/Hornsey consortium
- Appendix 9 Arrangements for admission to the Haringey Sixth Form Centre