

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2015 AT 2.00PM**

**COUNTY COUNCIL
31 MARCH 2015 AT 10.00AM**

Agenda Item No.

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Please see agenda

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NURSERY, PRIMARY, JUNIOR, MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE CO-ORDINATED SCHEMES FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS FOR 2016/17

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Author: Glenda Hardy, Head of Admissions and Transport
(Tel No: 01992 555862)

Executive Member: Chris Hayward, Enterprise, Education and Skills

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable Cabinet to consider the content of the report and to decide whether to recommend to Council the retention of the current oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools and the schemes of coordination for admission arrangements as determined for 2015/16 for 2016/17.
- 1.2 To invite County Council to determine its admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for 2016/17.

2. Summary and Background

- 2.1 The School Admissions Code ("The Code") requires the Local Authority to determine its admission arrangements annually even if there is no change to the previously determined arrangements.
- 2.2 When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

- 2.3 The current determined arrangements for 2015/16 do not require any changes and it was, therefore, not necessary to undertake a consultation relating to the arrangements for 2016/17.
- 2.4 Once admission arrangements have been agreed, admission authorities are required to determine their arrangements by 15 April 2015.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Cabinet is invited to recommend to Council:-

“That County Council determines its admissions arrangements for 2016/17 so that:-

- (i) the schemes of co-ordination for primary and secondary schools for 2016/17 are as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;*
- (ii) the oversubscription criteria and arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled schools, including the over-subscription criteria for nursery schools and classes are as set out in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report;*
- (iii) the sixth form arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools as determined for 2015/16 are agreed for 2016/7, as set out in Appendix 6 to the report; and*
- (iv) the published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools are approved as documented in Appendices 7 and 8 to the report.”*

- 3.2 Cabinet’s recommendation/s to Council will be reported orally at the Council meeting and circulated to Members in the Order of Business sheet.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. Equality Implications

- 4.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 4.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council’s statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 4.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic

and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 4.4 The original Equality Impact Assessment http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/edskillcp/16973356/ has been reviewed by Officers on an ongoing basis as part of the consideration of proposed admission arrangements. This review has concluded that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed, as it is not proposed to make any amendments to the coordinated scheme or admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2016/17, there are no additional equality considerations.
- 4.5 Retaining or increasing the PAN numbers of schools will not have any adverse effect on any particular group with a protected characteristic, as to retain the number will not affect any changes and to increase it will enable additional school places to be made available as close as possible to the demand for them. In that way they will improve access to school places to all sectors of the communities in which they are located.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Extract from EQiA from Education and Skills Cabinet Panel on Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 10.00 am
- Appendix 2 Schemes of co-ordination 2016/17
- Appendix 3 Nursery Oversubscription Criteria 2016/17
- Appendix 4 Primary Oversubscription Criteria 2016/17
- Appendix 5 Secondary Oversubscription Criteria 2016/17
- Appendix 6 Six form arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2016/17.
- Appendix 7 Published Admission Numbers – Infant, First, Primary, Junior and Middle Schools
- Appendix 8 Published Admission Numbers – Secondary and Upper Schools

Background Information

Report to the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel, March 2015