

**REPORT FOR: Education Strategy
Consultative Forum**

Date of Meeting: 3 December 2012

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT –**
Proposed Community School Admission
Arrangements

Responsible Officer: Adrian Parker, Head of Education Strategy
and School Organisation

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix 1. Part A – Draft Proposed
Community School Admission
Arrangements 2014/15

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out the proposals that Harrow Council is consulting on behalf of community school admission arrangements. Following the changes in legislation not to have an Admission Forum, Harrow Council agreed that admission related issues would be presented to this group for their advice and consideration.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

INTRODUCTION

1. Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Harrow Council is required to consult before determining its admission arrangements for its community schools.
2. Admission Arrangements, consultations must be held for a minimum of eight weeks and between 1st November to 1st March. Admission Arrangements for September 2014, must be determined by 15 April 2013.
3. In the 2012 School Admissions Code, the requirement to have an Admissions Forum was removed. Harrow's Admissions Forum disbanded earlier this year following the new Code coming into force. It was agreed that admission related issues should be presented to this forum for information and as part of any formal consultation process.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

4. Officers are formally consulting on making two changes to community school admission arrangements for 2014/15.
 - to change child's medical criterion to allow priority to be considered to a pupil with a social or medical need provided appropriate supporting information was present at the time of application.
 - to give sibling link priority at Whitmore High School to children applying for a place with siblings who are attending from year 7 to Year 11, i.e. at the time of application
5. The formal consultation is underway and following the consultation a full report with the findings and recommendations will be presented to cabinet in March before the admission arrangements are determined by 15 April 2013.

SCHEMES OF CO-ORDINATION

6. There are three schemes of Co-ordination: Primary, Secondary and Infant to Junior.
7. Primary Scheme:
The proposed scheme has been amended from the 2013/14 scheme to be fully in line with the Pan-London Co-ordinated scheme for admission to reception and the agreed Pan-London timetable.

11+ Transfer Scheme:

8. The proposed scheme varies from the 2013/14 scheme in that it has been amended to be fully in line with the Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and the Pan-London timetable.

Infant to Junior Transfer Scheme

9. The Junior school transfer scheme will only apply to Harrow community schools as there are no separate voluntary aided infant and junior schools. Applicants will only be able to apply for a junior school that is separate from the infant school. Children attending all through primary schools move automatically from Year 2 to Year 3.
10. Parents wishing to apply for Year 3 places other than in separate junior schools will be treated as in-year applicants.
11. In the new Code there is no requirement to continue to co-ordinate in year applications for 2013-14 and all subsequent years. However community school and the Academy schools have agreed to continue co-ordination. The voluntary aided schools have agreed to continue working with the local authority and use a common application form, however can make offers directly to applicants.

HARROW'S RELEVANT AREA

12. The relevant area means
- The area of the local authority
 - Or
 - Such other areas as may be determined
13. Harrow proposes to retain its current relevant area, namely that area within the borders of the London Borough of Harrow.

CONCLUSION

The Forum is requested to consider and comment on the proposal made within the report and enclosed Appendix 1.

CONSULTATION

14. The formal consultation which will involve all statutory consultees, including parents and community groups. The March meeting of Cabinet will consider the recommendations made by the Forum and the consultation and determine the community admission arrangements for 2014/15.

15. As the admission authority for community schools, Harrow is required to consult the following before determining the admission arrangements:
- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools); and
 - d) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority.

HARROW PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS (PANS) OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS

16. Harrow has been experiencing increasing demand for school places and has worked in partnership with schools to ensure that there are additional places through a combination of permanent expansions and additional temporary or bulge classes. This is ongoing work which is in line with the School Place Planning Strategy and it is expected that there will be further bulge reception classes opened in September 2013 and 2014 as part of this programme.

Section 3 – Further Information

17. A similar criterion is used by voluntary aided schools within Harrow Council and more widely by other Local Authorities.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

18. There are no financial implications in respect of the various recommendations in the report.
19. The proposals to provide additional school places to meet increasing demand will result in additional costs. The revenue costs of providing the additional classes will be funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant through the Harrow Schools Funding Formula. It is also likely to require capital expenditure to provide the additional accommodation. This will be minimised where possible by utilising existing accommodation. Where unavoidable it is being considered as part of setting the council's future capital programme.

Section 5 – Equalities Implications

20. An Equalities Impact Assessment will need to be carried out regarding the proposals to the admission arrangements.

21. An Initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the school expansion proposals and the increase of the PANs. The conclusion of this assessment is that the implications are positive or neutral in that the school expansion programme will ensure sufficient school places for the increasing numbers of children in Harrow.

Section 6 – Corporate Priorities

22. This report and the consultation process contribute to the corporate priorities:
- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.
 - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	22 November 2012		

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Rajeshree Parmar, Admissions Service, Team Manager

Background Papers: School Admissions Code 2012