Meeting:	Harrow Admissions Forum
Date:	19 July 2006
Subject:	E-applications
Responsible Officer:	Geoff Wingrove
Contact Officer:	Madeleine Hitchens
Portfolio Holder:	Janet Mote
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

FOR INFORATION

To note the arrangements put in place to ensure that Harrow meets the e-Government agenda in relation to on-line applications for school places.

Reason for report

To inform Members of the Harrow Admission Forum of progress on the e-admissions project.

Benefits

Collaborating with other London Local Authorities (LAs) will provide an easier route for parents to apply on line and will help meet the first year take up target of 5-10% on-line applications.

Cost of Proposals

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is funding the initial year of the London e-admissions project. Funding for subsequent years will need to be identified from the Dedicated Schools Grant as this funds the Council's Admission costs.

The cost of customising the Portal to take account of Harrow's different age of transfer is in the region of £7,000 and has been shared between Harrow and the Pan-London Project

Risks

Not participating in the Pan-London project would means that Harrow residents would not be able to access the same level of information and support on e-applications as residents of other London authorities.

Implications if recommendations rejected

N/A

Section 2: Report

Brief History

The facility for parents to apply on-line for school places is part of the e-Government agenda. Harrow is part of a Pan-London Project that involves all London authorities and which will provide a single portal through the Your London website to enable parents to apply on-line for school places.

As identified in the report to the Forum in March this year, work was required to take account of Harrow's different age of transfer. This has now been completed and parents wishing to apply for Harrow's community high schools can do so on line.

Harrow and Hillingdon authorities have earlier closing dates for admission to Reception than other London councils and have agreed to start the process earlier than originally intended. This will enable any issues identified to be actioned before the system goes live across London. Parents wishing to apply for Harrow or Hillingdon primary schools will be able to access the on-line service from 1 August 2006. Parents wishing to apply for primary schools in other London authorities and for secondary schools the on-line service will be available from 1 September 2006.

Consultation

N/A

Financial Implications

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is funding the initial year of the London e-admissions project. Funding for subsequent years will need to be identified from the Dedicated Schools Grant. Based on PAN-London co-ordination, the costs are likely to be in the region of £3,000-£4,000 per annum. The Government has already announced that the increase in Dedicated Schools Grant for 2007/2008 will be 6.4% per pupil.

Funding for the work related to 12+ transfer will be met from within the Admissions Service budget for IT developments.

Legal Implications

E-admissions are part of the priorities set out by the ODPM, it is also in keeping with the provisions in the code of guidance on admissions, any on-line admission arrangements will need to be implemented with regard to the Data Protection Act 1984

Equalities Impact

Being part of the Pan-London e-Admissions project means that Harrow parents will have access to the same information and opportunities as parents in other parts of London

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

N/A

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Background papers

Report to Harrow Admissions Forum – 6 March 2006 – E-Applications