

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is asked to make the following recommendations to the County Council:

Recommendation 1

That the Tiered Sibling criterion for Hinchley Wood Primary School is agreed for September 2013 so that the admission criteria would be as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- d) Non-siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- e) Other siblings for whom the school is not the nearest to their home address
- f) Any other applicant

Reasons for Recommendations

- Whilst the nature of this proposal means that some families might not be able to get younger siblings into the same school, this will only apply if it is not their nearest school
- The pressure on places in the area of the school combined with the extra class that was admitted to the school in 2011 means that on balance, a greater disadvantage might be caused to families in the local area than to siblings if this proposal is not agreed
- It is intended that the use of the tiered sibling criteria will only apply whilst the 'bulge' class is still in the school. Notwithstanding any further changes the admission policy for the school will be reviewed once the bulge class is due to leave the school

Recommendation 2

That the Tiered Sibling criterion for North Downs Primary School is removed for September 2013 so that the admission criteria would be as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Siblings
- d) Children for whom the school is the nearest school to their home address
- e) Any other applicant according to straight line distance from their home address

Reasons for Recommendations

- It would keep families together and maximise the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at the same school
- It would provide parents with some 'peace of mind' when making applications for school and when making applications for siblings
- It would ensure that parents are not dissuaded from applying for the school

Recommendation 3

That the Tiered Sibling criterion for Thames Ditton Infant School is removed for September 2013 so that the admission criteria would be as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Siblings
- d) Children for whom the school is the nearest school to their home address
- e) Any other applicant according to straight line distance from their home address

Reasons for Recommendations

- It would keep families together and maximise the opportunity for children in the same family to be educated at the same school
- It would provide parents with some 'peace of mind' when making applications for school and when making applications for siblings
- It would ensure that parents are not dissuaded from applying for the school

Recommendation 4

That the Tiered Sibling criterion for Wallace Fields Infant School is agreed for September 2013 on a phased basis so that the admission criteria would be as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School on the date of their admission and that sibling was on roll at that school at the end of the 2012/13 academic year
- d) Other children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- e) Non-siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- f) Other children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and for whom the school is not the nearest to their home address
- g) Any other applicant

Reasons for Recommendations

- It would ensure that families with siblings already at the school could continue to benefit from the sibling criteria whilst the sibling remained on roll at the school
- It would support families who had already made their preference decisions based on the current arrangements
- It would ensure that the school can serve the families of children currently on roll and that there would be minimal damage to the school community
- It would ensure that there would be no increase in traffic as families with siblings already at the school would only have to travel to one school
- In time it would support families within the local area so they would not be displaced in favour of siblings who lived further away
- It would enable parents who are considering applying for a place from 2013 to consider the impact on younger siblings if the school was not their nearest
- This approach is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school

Recommendation 5

That the Tiered Sibling criterion for Wallace Fields Junior School is agreed for September 2013 on a phased basis so that the admission criteria would be as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and that sibling was on roll at that school at the end of the 2012/13 academic year
- d) Other children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and for whom the school is the nearest to their home address
- e) Non-siblings for whom the school is the nearest to their home address

- f) Other children who will have a sibling at Wallace Fields Infant School or Wallace Fields Junior School on the date of their admission and for whom the school is not the nearest to their home address
- g) Any other applicant

Reasons for Recommendations

- It would ensure that families with siblings already at the school could continue to benefit from the sibling criteria whilst the sibling remained on roll at the school
- It would support families who had already made their preference decisions based on the current arrangements
- It would ensure that the school can serve the families of children currently on roll and that there would be minimal damage to the school community
- It would ensure that there would be no increase in traffic as families with siblings already at the school would only have to travel to one school
- In time it would support families within the local area so they would not be displaced in favour of siblings who lived further away
- It would enable parents who are considering applying for a place from 2013 to consider the impact on younger siblings if the school was not their nearest
- This approach is supported by the Headteacher of the school

Recommendation 6

That Hamsey Green is removed as a feeder school to Warlingham School so that the admission arrangements for Warlingham School would be as follows:

- a) Looked after children
- b) Exceptional social/medical need
- c) Siblings
- d) Children who live within the fixed catchment area
- e) Any other applicant

Reasons for Recommendations

- This proposal was supported by all schools in the area
- There was support for this proposal from respondents
- It would create a more level playing field for parents applying for the school with priority being applied on distance within catchment
- Local children would not get displaced in favour of non-sibling applicants who lived further away and outside of the catchment

Recommendation 7

It is recommended that Cabinet agree the proposed changes to PANs for September 2013 as follows:

- i) Cranmere Primary to increase its PAN from 30 to 60
- ii) Thames Ditton Junior to increase its PAN from 90 to 120 for one year only
- iii) Cuddington Croft Primary to introduce a Junior PAN of 6
- iv) Banstead Junior to increase its PAN from 80 to 90
- v) Horley Infant to increase its PAN from 80 to 90
- vi) Windlesham Village Infant to increase its PAN from 40 to 60
- vii) Hillcroft Primary to increase its PAN from 45 to 60
- viii) Potters Gate Primary to increase its PAN from 30 to 60
- ix) Beaufort Primary to increase its PAN from 30 to 60
- x) Westfield Primary to increase its PAN from 30 to 60

Reasons for Recommendation

- There were no major objections to changes in PAN
- Each request is with the support of the school
- School Commissioning support all of these changes
- Increasing the PAN at these schools responds to the need to create more school places and will help meet parental preference
- The increase at Thames Ditton Junior School will enable more children within the 'bulge' class at the infant school to transfer to the junior school

Recommendation 8

That a sibling link between between Long Ditton Infant School and Long Ditton St Mary's CofE (Aided) Junior School, for the purposes of admissions to the infant school, is deferred until 2014 when agreement might be reached with the junior school ahead of their consultation.

Reasons for Recommendation

- For a reciprocal sibling link to be in place Long Ditton St Mary's CofE (Aided) Junior School must also have consulted and be intending to determine the link as part of their admission arrangements
- The junior school have not yet consulted on a change as their admission arrangements remain with the Diocese and so to avoid any mismatch of admission arrangements the Local Authority and the school will coordinate their consultations for 2014 if this is to be introduced

Recommendation 9

That a sibling link is introduced between Meath Green Infant and Meath Green Junior School so that children receive sibling priority for either school if they have a sibling attending either school.

Reasons for Recommendation

- There was an overall majority in support of the proposal (58 agreed and 2 disagreed)
- This would support families with more than one child
- It would remove the uncertainty when siblings attend the infant/junior school
- It would provide continuity for parents
- It would support car free travel arrangements as families would be more likely to get their children in to both schools
- It would support the links between the two schools

Recommendation 10

That the list of schools considered to admit local children remain as it existed for 2012, other than for the removal of St Lawrence C of E Primary School (Surrey Heath) and St Peter's C of E Primary School (Waverley) from the Year 3 list.

Reasons for Recommendations

- With pupil numbers and pressure on places increasing, the 2013 admission intake for the faith schools proposed to be included in the list of schools that admit local children may not be reflective of historic patterns of intake
- St Lawrence C of E Primary School (Surrey Heath) and St Peter's C of E Primary School (Waverley) no longer have a Year 3 PAN and therefore should not be taken into account when considering nearest school for the Year 3 intake

Recommendation 11

That the Coordinated Admission Schemes for 2013/14 are agreed as set out in Annex 10, which includes the proposed change to the policy regarding adding names to waiting lists.

Reasons for Recommendations

- The coordinated schemes for 2013 are similar to 2012 except for the policy on adding names to waiting lists
- The coordinated schemes would enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- There was general support for making the change to adding names to higher preference waiting lists automatically
- This would provide for transparency and equity for parents
- It would reduce customer contact with schools and the Local Authority
- It would provide for a clear message to be communicated to parents in offer letters and the school admissions booklet

Recommendation 12

That the Nursery admission criteria for Surrey's Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for 2013/14 are agreed as follows:

- a) Looked After Children
- b) Where there is a social or medical need for a place at that school
- c) Where a child is expected to have a sibling attending the nursery or the main school at the time of admission
- d) Children who will turn 4 years old between 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 (this is to give priority to older children who will be due to transfer to Reception in the next academic year and hence only have one year left to attend nursery)
- e) Children who will be 3 years old between 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 (these children will be able to stay on in nursery for another year in 2014/15 as they will not be due to start Reception until September 2015)

Reasons for Recommendations

- The criteria would be compliant with the School Admissions Code
- Provides for an equitable way of deciding between applicants
- Responds to schools requests to review the admission criteria
- Provides for more transparent and equitable criteria against which parents can assess how they will be measured

Recommendation 13

That the admission arrangements for Surrey's Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for September 2013 are agreed with the following amendments:

- That paragraph 14 is re-worded to reflect the intention that, subject to there being physical capacity within the school, in the case of multiple births where only one place remains, each child would be offered a place as long as they are ranked consecutively in their order of priority for the school
- That a statement on transport is included within the published admission arrangements which confirms that eligibility for transport will be assessed in accordance with Surrey's Home to School Transport policy, that feeder links do not confer an automatic right to transport and that if applications are not made for nearer schools (whether in or outside the County) then transport will not be provided to a school that is further away if the child would have been eligible for a place at a nearer school had they applied.

Reasons for Recommendations

- This would ensure stability and consistency for the majority of Surrey's parents, pupils and schools
- The arrangements enable parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences
- The arrangements are working reasonably well
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest schools and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's Green Policies
- Infant Class Size legislation now provides for children from multiple births to be an exception and so, as long as the first child was admitted through normal admission rules (i.e. not through having a Statement of SEN) no school would have to take qualifying measures if they had more than 30 in a class as a result of admitting a child from a multiple birth
- It ensures that parents are alerted to the Home to School Transport policy at the earliest stage