

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND
EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2016****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DIRECTOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND COORDINATED SCHEMES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Local Authority must consult on any changes it wishes to make to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2018. Consultation must run for at least six weeks between 1 October 2016 and 31 January 2017 and admission arrangements for 2018 must be determined by 28 February 2017. The Local Authority must also consult on its Relevant Area every two years.

This report seeks authorisation to proceed to consultation on the following:

- Stoughton Infant School - introduction of a reciprocal sibling link with Northmead Junior (page 2)
- St Andrew's CofE Infant School – decrease in Reception PAN (page 3)
- Surrey's Relevant Area (page 3)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Cabinet Member authorises the Principal Manager Admissions and Transport (Strategy) to go out to statutory consultation on the proposed changes to admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2018 and also to consult on its proposed Relevant Area.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is a statutory requirement to consult on admission arrangements every seven years, or sooner if there is a proposal to change any part of a school's admission arrangements. The Local Authority is proposing some changes to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and, as such, there is a statutory duty to consult on these changes. The consultation will also seek views on the admission arrangements for which there is no proposal for change.

There is also a statutory requirement for the local authority to consult on its Relevant Area every two years and as two years has passed since the last consultation, a further consultation is now due.

<u>DETAILS:</u>

1. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014 require all admission authorities to consult on their admission arrangements every seven years, unless they are proposing any changes to their arrangements, in which case they must consult each year they are proposing a change.
2. Consultation must take place for a minimum of six weeks, between 1 October and 31 January and all admission authorities must then determine their arrangements by 28 February, whether or not they have been subject to consultation.
3. Surrey County Council (SCC) is proposing some changes to its admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and as such is intending to consult on these changes between 14 October and 24 November 2016.
4. The School Standards & Framework Act 1998 requires local authorities to establish Relevant Area(s) for admission policy consultations. The Relevant Area is the area in which admission authorities must consult with schools regarding their proposed admission arrangements before finalising them.
5. The Education Act 2002 requires the local authority to review and consult on its Relevant Area every 2 years.

Changes proposed to the admission criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2018

Stoughton Infant – Guildford

6. It is proposed to introduce a sibling link for Stoughton Infant School with Northmead Junior School. In this way, families with an older child attending Northmead Junior School would receive sibling priority for a younger child to attend Stoughton Infant School.
7. The admission criteria for Stoughton Infant School would not change but would be described as operating shared sibling priority with Northmead Junior School for 2018 admission (see Enclosure 1 – Appendix 2).
8. This proposal is in line with a proposal being considered by Northmead Junior School to introduce a reciprocal sibling link with Stoughton Infant School. As a foundation school, the governing body of Northmead Junior School is responsible for consulting on any proposals for change to their admission arrangements.
9. Implementation of this proposal for Stoughton Infant School would be subject to Northmead Junior School also implementing a reciprocal sibling link with Stoughton Infant School.
10. This proposal is supported by the headteacher and Governing Body of Stoughton Infant School. It is also broadly supported by Northmead Junior School, although this school's governing body has yet to formally agree to introduce a reciprocal sibling arrangement.

11. In line with Surrey County Council policy, the introduction of a reciprocal sibling link with Northmead Junior School would enable sibling priority to be given to a child who is applying to start at Stoughton Infant School in Reception even if they have a sibling who would have left Year 2 of the school by the time the younger child starts. This is because the feeder link within the admission criteria for Northmead Junior would provide for them to be admitted to that school, thereby retaining their sibling priority.
12. This proposal is consistent with Surrey's planning principles set out in the School Organisation Plan which undertake to consider sympathetically the desirability of separate infant schools feeding into junior or primary provision where this reduces transport needs for young children.
13. The introduction of a reciprocal sibling link between the two schools would provide a greater chance of families keeping their children together or at schools in close proximity.

Changes proposed to the Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for schools

14. Admission authorities are not required to consult on proposed increases to PANs but are required to consult on any decrease to PAN. Appendix 1 of Enclosure 1 sets out the proposed admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2018 admission.
15. Surrey is proposing to consult on a decrease in PAN at the following school for September 2018:
Waverley
St Andrew's CofE Infant School – decrease in Reception PAN from 40 to 30
16. This school currently has vacancies in Reception and Year 1. As applications for Reception are forecast to drop year on year for the Farnham area, this reduction in PAN would enable the school to organise its classes and resources more effectively.
17. Surrey is not currently proposing to increase the PAN at any school for September 2018.

Changes proposed to Surrey's Relevant Area

18. The Relevant Area that Surrey intends to publish for schools for the next two years is set out in ENCLOSURE 3.
19. There are no changes proposed and this remains as it was determined in 2015.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

20. A paper setting out the proposed changes was passed to the School Admissions Forum on 30 September 2016.
21. The Director for Children, Schools and Families and the Assistant Director for Schools and Learning have been made aware of the proposed changes.
22. The School Commissioning team has been involved in considering the proposals for change.

23. All schools directly affected by the proposed changes have been consulted.
24. Parents, schools and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed admission arrangements, including any changes being proposed, throughout the six week consultation.
25. Education and Skills Board members will be given the opportunity to respond to the proposals prior to recommendations being put to Cabinet.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

26. The risks of consulting on these changes are low. There may be some local opposition to some of the proposals from those cohorts or groups that may be disadvantaged by the proposals but it is important to identify those concerns as part of the consultation.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

27. The admission criteria for the majority of community and voluntary controlled schools in Surrey conform to Surrey's standard criteria. The more schools that have the same admission criteria, the more the processes can be streamlined and thus present better value for money. However, where required, the admission criteria for some schools vary from Surrey's standard but these can currently be managed within existing resources.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

28. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the proposed changes to admission arrangements will be met within existing resources.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

29. The proposed admission arrangements comply with legislation on School Admissions and the requirements of the School Admissions Code.
30. The Local Authority will carry out a consultation on all changes for a period of six weeks between 14 October and 24 November 2016, which is in accordance with statutory requirements.
31. The consultation will be carried out with all persons required under the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014.
32. The Local Authority will give due regard to the responses to the consultation before considering the recommendations to put before Cabinet.
33. The public sector equality duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) applies to the decision to be made by the Cabinet Member in this report. There is a requirement when deciding upon the recommendations to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations between such groups and eliminate any unlawful discrimination. These matters are dealt with in the equalities paragraphs of the report and in the attached equalities impact assessment (EIA).

Equalities and Diversity

34. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is attached as ENCLOSURE 4. The adoption of determined admission criteria is a mandatory requirement supported by primary legislation. The policy as it relates to community and voluntary controlled schools does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity, faith, disability or sexual orientation.
35. Measures have been taken to reference vulnerable groups both in terms of exceptional arrangements within admissions, the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process and the Fair Access Protocol. In addition, a right of appeal exists for all applicants who are refused a place at a particular school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

36. As required by the School Admissions Code, the proposed admission arrangements give top priority to children who are Looked After by a local authority and to those children who have left care through adoption, a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

37. The efficient and timely administration of the schools admission process coupled with the equitable distribution of school places in accordance with the School Admission Code and parental preference contribute to the County Council's priority for safeguarding vulnerable children.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

38. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
39. The admission arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest school and in doing so reduces travel and supports policies on cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- If approval is given to consult, the Local Authority will consult on the proposed admission arrangements for six weeks between 14 October and 24 November 2016.
- Details will be distributed to:
 - all schools and nurseries in the county including a form of wording that they may wish to display on their website, in newsletters or on notice boards.
 - out of County schools which are close to the border of Surrey
 - each of Surrey's neighbouring local authorities
 - each Diocesan Body representing schools in the county

- all Surrey County Council Members and Borough/District Members, asking them to share the details with local community and resident groups as appropriate
 - Parish Councils within the area of Surrey County Council
 - Surrey MPs
 - Education and Skills Board members for comment.
 - A paper summarising the outcome of the consultation and making recommendations will then be passed to Cabinet on 31 January 2017 for decision and then to Full Council on 7 February 2017 to ratify the decision so that the admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools and the coordinated schemes for 2018 can be determined before the statutory deadline of 28 February 2017.
 - The admission arrangements for September 2018 will then be published by 15 March 2017 on Surrey's website and a notice will be sent to all those consulted.
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Contact Officer:

Claire Potier – Principal Manager Admissions and Transport – 01483 517689.

Consulted:

School Admission Forum
 School Commissioning Team
 Schools affected by the proposals
 Director Children, Schools and Families

Annexes:

ENCLOSURE 1	Draft admission arrangements for community and VC schools
APPENDIX 1	Draft published admission numbers
APPENDIX 2	Draft schools to be considered as on adjoining/shared sites
APPENDIX 3	Draft schools to be considered in assessment of nearest school
APPENDIX 4	Catchment map for Southfield Park
APPENDIX 5	Catchment map for Woodmansterne Primary
APPENDIX 6	Catchment map for Tatsfield
APPENDIX 7	Catchment map for St Andrew's CofE Controlled Infant School
ENCLOSURE 2	Draft coordinated schemes
ENCLOSURE 3	Draft Relevant Area
ENCLOSURE 4	Equality Impact Assessment

Sources/background papers:

- School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- School Admissions Code
- Equality Act 2002