

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 26 JANUARY 2021****REPORT OF: MRS JULIE ILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL AGE LEARNING****LEAD OFFICER: LIZ MILLS, DIRECTOR EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING & CULTURE****SUBJECT: ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SURREY'S COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND THE COORDINATED SCHEMES THAT WILL APPLY TO ALL SCHOOLS FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 AND SURREY'S RELEVANT AREA****ORGANISATION STRATEGY
PRIORITY
AREA: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

Each year, Surrey County Council is responsible for processing approximately 30,000 applications for a school place from Surrey residents and coordinates offers for over 350 schools. The admission arrangements for each school determine which children can be offered a place and Surrey's coordinated admissions scheme ensures that, as far as possible, no child receives an offer at more than one school.

Within Surrey, there is a mixture of community, voluntary controlled, academies, foundation, free, trust and voluntary aided schools.

Surrey County Council is responsible for setting the admission arrangements for 91 community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022 and the coordinated schemes. The remaining schools are academies, foundation, free, trust and voluntary aided schools and these are responsible for setting their own admission arrangements. As such their admission arrangements are not covered in this report.

Following statutory consultation on Surrey's admission arrangements for September 2022, Cabinet is asked to consider the responses set out in Enclosure 7 and make recommendations to the County Council on admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled infant, junior, primary and secondary schools and for the coordinated schemes that will apply to all schools for September 2022.

This report covers the following matters in relation to school admissions:

- Removal of priority for children who have the school as their 'nearest school' for the majority of community and voluntary controlled schools – Recommendation 1
- Sibling link for Beauclerc Infant School with Chennestone Primary School – Recommendation 2
- Sibling link for Horley Infant School with Yattendon School – Recommendation 3
- Published Admission Number for Reception at Onslow Infant School – Recommendation 4

- Published Admission Numbers for other community and voluntary controlled schools – Recommendation 5
- Admission arrangements for which no change has been consulted on – Recommendation 6
- Primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools for 2022 – Recommendation 7
- Surrey’s Relevant Area – Recommendation 8

Recommendations are set out below and further details of each proposal are set out in paragraphs 1 to 72.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet make the following recommendations to the County Council:

Recommendation 1

That priority for children who have the school as their ‘nearest school’ is removed for the majority of community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022 admission, as indicated in Enclosure 5.

Reasons for Recommendation

- It will ensure the local authority complies with a decision of the Schools Adjudicator
- It will ensure that the admission arrangements for these schools comply with the School Admissions Code in regard to catchments
- It will simplify the admission arrangements
- It will enable parents to better understand how their application will be considered
- Analysis would indicate that this change will have no or minimal impact on the intake to each of these schools
- It will enable school specific criteria to remain where they already exist to accommodate feeder links
- The final distance criterion will still exist which will enable remaining applicants to be prioritised based on the distance they live from the school, ensuring children who live closer to the school are allocated ahead of children who live further away
- 55% of academies, foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools do not give priority on the basis of ‘nearest school’

Recommendation 2

That a sibling link is introduced for Beauclerc Infant School with Chennestone Primary School for 2022 admission.

Reasons for Recommendation

- There was overall support for this change
- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school
- It would support families with more than one child as families with a sibling at Chennestone School would benefit from sibling priority for a place at Beauclerc Infant School
- It would maximise the opportunity for families to keep children together or at schools with agreed links

Recommendation 3

That a sibling link is introduced for Horley Infant School with Yattendon School for 2022 admission.

Reasons for Recommendation

- There was overall support for this change

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school
- It would support families with more than one child as families with a sibling at Yattendon School would benefit from sibling priority for a place at Horley Infant School
- This proposal is in line with a separate proposal by the Governing Body of Yattendon School to introduce a reciprocal sibling link with Horley Infant School
- It would maximise the opportunity for families to keep children together or at schools with agreed links

Recommendation 4

That the Published Admission Number for Reception at Onslow Infant School is reduced from 90 to 60 for 2022 admission.

Reasons for Recommendation

- It is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school, having been requested by them
- There will still be sufficient places for local children if the PAN is decreased
- It would help the school maintain financial viability
- It reflects what is currently being operated within the school
- It will have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school

Recommendation 5

That the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2022 for all other community and voluntary controlled schools (excluding Onslow Infant School which is covered by Recommendation 4) are determined as they are set out in Appendix 1 to Enclosure 1.

Reasons for Recommendation

- Most other PANs remain as they were determined for 2021 which enables parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences for 2022 admission
- The PAN for William Cobbett School has been increased from 50 to 60 to provide for consistent class sizes of 60 throughout KS2
- The Education Place Planning team supports the PANs

Recommendation 6

That the aspects of Surrey's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2022 for which no change has been consulted on, are agreed as set out in Enclosure 1 and its appendices.

Reasons for Recommendation

- The admission arrangements are working well
- Surrey has undertaken to review the admission arrangements for the remaining eight schools which will still use 'nearest school' ahead of any consultation on the arrangements for 2023
- The arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest schools and in doing so reduce travel and support Surrey's sustainability policies - this is still anticipated to be the case for 2022 admission, even with the changes proposed in Recommendations 1 to 5
- The change highlighted in bold in Section 12 of Enclosure 1 has been made to add clarity to the arrangements and reflects existing practice

Recommendation 7

That the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools for 2022 are agreed as set out in Enclosure 2.

Reasons for Recommendation

- The coordinated schemes for 2022 are essentially the same as 2021 with dates updated
- The coordinated schemes will enable the County Council to meet its statutory duties regarding school admissions
- The coordinated schemes are working well

Recommendation 8

That Surrey's Relevant Area is agreed as set out in Enclosure 3.

Reasons for Recommendation

- The local authority is required by law to define the Relevant Area for admissions
- The Relevant Area must be consulted upon and agreed every two years even if no changes are proposed
- Setting a Relevant Area ensures that any schools who might be affected by changes to the admission arrangements for other local schools will be made aware of those changes
- No change has been made to Surrey's Relevant Area since it was last determined in February 2019

DETAILS

Recommendation 1 – to remove priority for children who have the school as their 'nearest school' for the majority of community and voluntary controlled schools

1. The reasons for this change are set out in Section 1 of Enclosure 6, with a list of the schools for which the change is to be applied set out in Enclosure 5.
2. There was a significant level of response to this proposal with 25 respondents in support and 114 opposed.
3. The majority of the 114 respondents who were opposed to the proposals were parents (101 respondents).
4. Only one of the respondents who was opposed was from a community or voluntary controlled school.
5. Many of the respondents who were opposed expressed concern that priority should be given to children who live nearer to a school rather than those living further away. They indicated that this would allow children to walk or cycle to school, ensure local friendships could be established, protect the overall performance and reputation of a school and contribute to community cohesion. However, this will still be achieved because the final criterion will be home to school distance, with priority being given to those who live nearer the school. In this way, children who live some distance from a school will only be offered a place once all children who live nearer have been offered a place.
6. Another point of concern was that children, especially those that lived rurally, would be displaced from their nearest school by others who live closer but who have another school as their nearest school. However, based on analysis of the intakes for 2018, 2019 and 2020 it is anticipated that this proposal will, overall, have no or minimal impact on the intake to schools for which this change has been proposed.
7. For the eight schools where it was anticipated that the removal of nearest school would have an impact on the intake, the local authority has not proposed a change for 2022 admission but has undertaken to carry out a review ahead of consultation for 2023. Please see Recommendation 6 for more details of these schools.

8. As home to school distance will still be used to prioritise applicants and as this proposal is anticipated to have no or minimum impact on the intake to each school, this also negates any concerns about longer journeys to school, transport accessibility or increased traffic and associated pollution which is not expected to increase as a result of this proposal.
9. A number of parents were concerned at the impact on house prices and the potential advantage to parents who could afford to move home to be closer to their more preferred schools or disadvantage to parents who had researched a house move to a particular school in order to access a good school. But, again, as home to school distance will still be used to prioritise applicants and as this proposal is anticipated to have no or minimum impact on the intake to each school, these concerns are not expected to materialise any more than they do within the current system of admissions.
10. At least one parent expressed concern at the potential 'black spot' that might be created as a result of this proposal, whereby children are not eligible for a place at any school. However, use of 'nearest school' as a criterion is currently just as likely to create a 'black spot' for admissions. If a child is not eligible for a place at their nearest school, they are likely to receive lower priority for a place at other schools which also give priority on the basis of 'nearest school'. In summary, use of 'nearest school' as a criterion does not guarantee that a child will be offered a place at their nearest school but might impact a child's ability to be offered a place at another school of preference. There is never any guarantee that a parent will be able to secure a place at one of their preferred schools and where that is not possible, the local authority has a duty to offer an alternative place within a reasonable distance from the child's home address.
11. Based on admission arrangements set for 2021, 55% of all academies, foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools (which set their own admission arrangements) do not currently give priority on the basis of 'nearest school'. Thereby, the current policy of giving priority on the basis of 'nearest school' might disadvantage applicants if their nearest school does not give priority on this basis.
12. At least one parent expressed concern that this proposal might impact on their child's transport eligibility to their nearest school. There is a statutory requirement to provide home to school transport for a child who is attending their nearest school where the shortest safe walking route to the school is over the maximum walking distance of two or three miles, depending on the age of the child. For this purpose, the nearest school is measured by the shortest road route and a child's eligibility under this criterion will not be affected by this proposal. However, there is also a discretionary provision within Surrey's Home to School/College Travel and Transport policy that provides for children to also be eligible for transport if they are attending their nearest school by straight line distance, providing the distance criteria are met. Whilst there is not currently a proposal to amend this discretionary element of Surrey's transport policy, this may be reviewed in the future if priority for admission on the basis of 'nearest school' is removed for all community and voluntary controlled schools.
13. This change is reflected in the admission criteria set out in Sections 7 and 8 of Enclosure 1, with a list of the schools for which the change is to be applied set out in Enclosure 5. Englefield Green Infant School has been removed from the schools listed in Enclosure 5 because this school will close on 31 August 2021. This means that the number of schools for which this proposal applies has reduced from 79 to 78. This represents 89 intakes because some schools have both a Reception and a Junior intake.

Recommendation 2 – Beauclerc Primary School: introduction of sibling link with Chennestone Primary School

14. The reasons for this change are set out in Section 2 of Enclosure 6.
15. There was significant support for this proposal with 36 respondents in support and 6 opposed to it.
16. It is not intended to make this a reciprocal link and so the same arrangement will not apply to Chennestone Primary School. This means that families with a child on roll at Beauclerc Infant School will not receive sibling priority if they apply for another child to go to Chennestone Primary School. This is because families applying for a place at Chennestone Primary School already have the benefit of being able to claim sibling priority if a sibling is in Reception to Year 6 at the school, unlike Beauclerc Infant School which only has year groups from Reception to Year 2.
17. This proposal is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Beauclerc Infant and Chennestone Primary schools.
18. 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.
19. Section 12 of Enclosure 1 and Appendix 2 to Enclosure 1 has been updated to reflect this change.

Recommendation 3 – Horley Infant School: introduction of sibling link with Yattendon School

20. The reasons for this change are set out in Section 3 of Enclosure 6.
21. There was significant support for this proposal with 28 respondents in support and 6 opposed to it.
22. This proposal is in line with a proposal being considered by Yattendon School to introduce a reciprocal sibling link with Horley Infant School. As a foundation school, the governing body of Yattendon School is responsible for consulting on any proposals for change to their admission arrangements.
23. This proposal is supported by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Horley Infant School. It is also broadly supported by Yattendon and this school's governing body has consulted on a reciprocal sibling arrangement but has yet to formally determine this change, although it is still expected to do so for 2022 admission.
24. 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.
25. Section 12 of Enclosure 1 and Appendix 2 to Enclosure 1 have been updated to reflect this change.

Recommendation 4 – Onslow Infant School: reduction of Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for Reception from 90 to 60

26. The reasons for this change are set out in Section 4 of Enclosure 6.

27. There was a slim majority of support for this proposal with 13 respondents in support and 12 opposed to it.
28. Only two respondents who were opposed gave their reasons and these reflected a general concern about the loss of school places for local children. However, it is anticipated that there would still be sufficient places in the area if the PAN is decreased as, currently, the school is not filling to its PAN and is already running with an operational cohort of two classes in each of its year groups.
29. This decrease in PAN would have no impact on children who are currently on roll at the school.
30. This reduction in PAN had been formally requested by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Onslow Infant School as it will provide the school with greater ability to maintain financial viability.
31. Surrey's Education Place Planning team are satisfied that this reduction will not impact the sufficiency of places for the next two years. There is a suggestion that additional places may be needed in 2024/25 and the school has indicated that they would be willing for the PAN to be reviewed at that stage if numbers increase at that time, with a view to taking a bulge class and a subsequent increase in PAN should the demand be sustained to require it.
32. Appendix 1 to Enclosure 1 has been updated to reflect this change.

Recommendation 5 - Proposed Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for other community and voluntary controlled schools

33. Appendix 1 to Enclosure 1 sets out the proposed admission numbers for all community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022 admission, with changes highlighted in bold.
34. The reduction in PAN at Onslow Infant School has already been referenced in Recommendation 4.
35. It is also proposed to increase the Year 3 PAN at William Cobbett Primary School from 50 to 60 to provide for consistent class sizes of 60 throughout KS2. This proposal did not require consultation.
36. The PAN for Englefield Green Infant School has been removed because this school will close on 31 August 2021.
37. It is proposed that the PAN for all other community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022 should remain as determined for 2021. This would enable parents to have some historical benchmark by which to make informed decisions about their school preferences.
38. The Education Place Planning team support the proposed PANs.
39. Each community and voluntary controlled school has been given the opportunity to comment on the proposed PAN if they wished.

Recommendation 6 – Admission arrangements for which no change has been consulted on

40. The local authority has a duty to determine the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools by 28 February 2021, even if there are no changes proposed.
41. No change has been proposed for the following eight schools, as it was considered that removal of 'nearest school' was more likely to have a medium or significant impact on the pattern of admission to each of these schools:

Elmbridge

Hurst Park Primary School

Epsom & Ewell

Southfield Park Primary School
Stamford Green Primary School
Wallace Fields Junior School

Guildford

Tillingbourne Junior School

Reigate & Banstead

Langshott Primary School
Meath Green Infant School
Walton on the Hill Primary School

42. For these schools, given the greater complexities of making a change, Surrey has undertaken to review the admission arrangements ahead of any consultation on the arrangements for 2023.
43. In addition, no change has been proposed to the admission arrangements for the following schools, which do not currently give priority according to 'nearest school':
- Walsh Church of England Junior School - Guildford
 - Banstead Community Junior School - Reigate & Banstead
 - Meath Green Junior School - Reigate & Banstead
 - Shottermill Junior School - Waverley
 - West Byfleet Junior School - Woking
44. Other than changes already referenced in Recommendations 1 to 5, the only other change is to Section 12 of Enclosure 1. Wording has been added to clarify current practice that where a mainstream child has a sibling with a final EHCP that names the same school, they will be given sibling priority for that school as long as the sibling with the EHCP is expected to start at the school before or on the same date as the mainstream child.
45. The admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools are generally working well. This is demonstrated by the fact that in 2020, of the 28,836 on time applications across all phases from Surrey residents, 87.2% were offered a place at their first preference school and 96.5% were offered a place at one of their preference schools. This is still anticipated to be the case for 2022 admission, even with the changes proposed in Recommendations 1 to 5.
46. The admission arrangements enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest school and in doing so this reduces the need for travel and supports Surrey's sustainability policies. This is still anticipated to be the case for 2022 admission, even with the changes proposed in Recommendations 1 to 5.

47. 40 respondents took the opportunity to make comments about the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for which no change was proposed. Of these, 24 related to matters already covered by this report and nine concerned other matters that were not relevant to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools.
48. Seven respondents raised new issues which were relevant to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and these are set out below in paragraphs 49 to 62.
49. **Langshott Primary School** - The Governing Body of Trinity Oaks CofE Primary School made a comment about the non-removal of the 'nearest school' criterion at Langshott Primary School and their belief that the criteria for this school should be reviewed in line with other schools for which it had been proposed to remove the 'nearest school' criterion. They suggest that Surrey's proposal falls short of reviewing the effectiveness of the policy at schools where its removal is likely to have a greater impact.
50. Langshott Primary School was one of the eight schools for which no change had been proposed for 2022 admission. From the analysis of the intakes for the past three years it is acknowledged that the removal of the 'nearest school' criterion for this school would be likely to alter the intake and, as a consequence, the intakes to other local schools. Any change in this regard would constitute a change to the way children were to be admitted and, as such, it would not be possible to make a change without due consultation and consideration of the impact.
51. In the determination of the Schools Adjudicator that triggered the review of Surrey's use of 'nearest school', the Adjudicator acknowledged that it may require longer to consult on more substantive changes. Surrey believes that a two-phase approach to its review is reasonable given the number of schools involved and the greater complexities that will be involved in the review of the admission arrangements for the remaining eight schools. As part of the consultation summary document (Enclosure 6), Surrey has already undertaken to review the admission arrangements for this school ahead of any consultation on the arrangements for 2023.
52. If a change to the admission arrangements for Langshott Primary School was not possible, as an alternative, the Governing Body at Trinity Oaks CofE Primary School suggested that they could be added to the list of schools which would be disregarded in the assessment of nearest school. However, as this would influence which children received priority, it would constitute a change to the way children were to be admitted and it would not be possible to make such a change without due consultation and consideration of the impact.
53. The assessment of nearest school for 2022 admission will remain as it was for 2021 admission and there will be no changes to the list of schools to be excluded from the assessment of nearest school, as set out in Appendix 3 to Enclosure 1.
54. **Wallace Fields Junior School** - One respondent made a comment about the admission arrangements for Wallace Fields Junior School. The respondent suggested that the criteria should prioritise children attending the infant school, irrespective of whether the infant/junior school was the nearest school, to ensure that children who already attend the infant school were given greater priority for the junior school.
55. Wallace Fields Junior School was one of the eight schools for which no change had been proposed for 2022 admission. As any change to the 'nearest school' criterion for this school would constitute a change to the way children were to be admitted, it would

not be possible to make such a change without due consultation and consideration of the impact. As part of the consultation summary document (Enclosure 6), Surrey has already undertaken to review the admission arrangements for this school ahead of any consultation on the arrangements for 2023. As there is a feeder link to Wallace Fields Junior School from Wallace Fields Infant School and as the admission arrangements for both schools are aligned, the local authority will wish to liaise with representatives from Wallace Fields Infant School as part of the review which, as an academy, is responsible for setting its own admission arrangements.

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56. **Increasing of PANs** - Cranleigh Parish Council requested that the local authority consider schools in potentially competing catchment areas when increasing PANs, to prevent an increase in PAN having a detrimental impact on schools in Cranleigh. However, no PANs are being increased for community and voluntary controlled schools in this area for 2022 admission. As such the comments of the Parish Council have been passed to Surrey's Education Place Planning team so they might consider them in light of any future proposals they might be considering in the area. It is also possible that the Parish Council refers to PAN increases that are being proposed by own admission authority schools. If this is the case, the Parish Council must direct its comments directly to those schools although, legally, no consultation is required on an increase to PAN.
 57. **Siblings of children whose families move away from the area** – two respondents raised a concern about priority for siblings where the family moves away from the school since the first child was admitted.
 58. This could be achieved by prioritising siblings who have the school as their nearest ahead of those who don't, to prevent other local children being deprived of a place. This is an arrangement that has been introduced at a small number of schools but may not be appropriate for all schools. However, a balance needs to be drawn between enabling siblings to travel to and study at the same school and supporting families to access a place at a local school. It can also be detrimental to a child's education if they change schools in year, which some parents may be forced to do if they are unable to get a younger sibling in to the same school.
 59. As any change to the sibling criterion within the admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools would constitute a change to the way children were to be admitted, it would not be possible to make such a change without due consultation and consideration of the impact.
 60. **Multiple birth siblings** - One respondent made a comment in relation to the wording around multiple birth children in Section 15 of Enclosure 1 and suggested that there was no need for random allocation as Surrey would be offering out to all children of a multiple birth anyway.
 61. However, as part of the initial allocation, before it is known how far down the list places will be allocated, it is a requirement that each child is ranked individually, including those from a multiple birth. All children from a multiple birth will only be allocated a place under the provision set out in Section 15 of Enclosure 1, if at least one of those children can be offered as part of the initial allocation.
 62. **Waiting lists** - One respondent made a comment in relation to the waiting lists and suggested that, within each criterion, new applicants should go to the bottom of a waiting list. However, this would be unlawful as paragraph 2.14 of the School Admissions Code sets out that priority 'must not be given to children based on the date their application was received or their name was added to the list'.

Recommendation 7 - Surrey's primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes

63. The local authority has a duty to determine the primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes that will apply to all schools by 28 February 2021, even if there are no changes proposed.
64. The coordinated admission schemes are working well with all schools participating, as they are legally required to.
65. The coordinated schemes provide for all preferences to be named on one application form and for applications to be coordinated to ensure that each child only receives one offer of a place.
66. Dates within the primary and secondary coordinated schemes have been updated to ensure they comply with the Pan London timetable.
67. There are no other changes proposed to the coordinated admission schemes.

Recommendation 8 – Surrey's Relevant Area

68. The Relevant Area that Surrey intends to publish for schools for the next two years is set out in Enclosure 3.
69. 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.
70. The Education Act 2002 requires the local authority to review and consult on its Relevant Area every 2 years.
71. The proposed Relevant Area for 2021 remains as it was determined in 2019.
72. One Diocesan representative wrote in support of Surrey's Relevant Area, but no further comments were received. This is to be expected as it is very much an operational matter for schools and the local authority in relation to consultation and does not influence how places are allocated.

CONSULTATION

73. Full details of the proposals in relation to 'nearest school' were sent to all community and voluntary controlled schools and, as a follow on, two virtual meetings were held with those schools, on 14 and 19 October 2020, to talk through the changes that had been proposed and to prepare them for any queries from parents.
74. Full details of the proposals in relation to 'nearest school' were also sent to all academies, foundation, trust and voluntary aided schools and Diocesan representatives on 12 October 2020 to provide them with the background to the proposed change.
75. On 13 October 2020 the Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning agreed to consult on proposed changes to the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022.
76. A consultation on the proposed changes, the admission arrangements for which no change was proposed and the coordinated schemes for 2022 was published on Surrey Says on 20 October 2020.

77. Full details of the proposed admission arrangements for Surrey's community and voluntary controlled schools, including the arrangements for which there is no change proposed are attached as Enclosure 1 and its appendices. The proposed primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes are attached as Enclosure 2.
78. A document which set out a summary of the consultation was made available to schools and parents and is attached as Enclosure 6.
79. The consultation was sent directly to Headteachers, Chairs of Governors and Parent Governors of all Surrey schools, Diocesan Boards of Education, neighbouring local authorities, out of County academies, foundation, free and voluntary aided schools within a 3 mile (primary schools) or 5 mile (secondary schools) radius of the Surrey border, Surrey County Councillors, Borough and District Councillors, Parish and Town Councillors, Early Years establishments and Surrey MPs.
80. Surrey County Council Members and Borough and District Councillors were asked to draw the consultation to the attention of any local community or resident groups in their area who may have an interest in responding.
81. Nurseries and schools were asked to draw the consultation to the attention of parents with children at the nursery or school.
82. All consultees were also sent a suggested form of wording for parents, which they were encouraged to put on websites, noticeboards and in newsletters, as appropriate.
83. Notice of the consultation was also published on Surrey County Council's website along with an online response form.
84. In total, 144 respondents submitted a response to the consultation, some of whom answered more than one question.
85. A full analysis of the responses to the consultation is included as Enclosure 7.
86. A summary of the responses to the individual school related questions within the consultation is set out below in Table A.

Table A - Summary of responses to admission consultation

Question Number	Proposal	Document	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
1	Removal of priority on the basis of 'nearest school' for the majority of community & voluntary controlled schools	Enclosure 1	25	114	5
2	Beauclerc Infant School: introduction of sibling link with Chennestone Primary	Enclosure 1, Appendix 2	36	6	102
3	Horley Infant School: introduction of sibling link with Yattendon School	Enclosure 1, Appendix 2	28	6	110
4	Onslow Infant School: Reduction of Reception PAN from 90 to 60	Enclosure 1, Appendix 1	13	12	119

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS

87. The risks of implementing these changes are low. However, any parents who feel unfairly disadvantaged by the proposals can object to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

88. 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

89. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook is uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which may not be fully funded in the current year. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected from next year onward, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the recommendations of this report, which are expected to be delivered within existing resources.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

90. The admission arrangements comply with legislation on school admissions and the School Admissions Code.
91. The local authority has carried out a consultation on all changes for a period of 6 weeks between 20 October 2020 and 1 December 2020, which is in accordance with statutory requirements.
92. There is a statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. Such consultation involved those directly affected by the changes together with relevant representative groups. The material presented to consultees provided sufficient information to allow for intelligent consideration and response in relation to the proposals and was presented in a way that consultees could understand.
93. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.
94. In considering this Report, Cabinet must give due regard to the results of the consultation as set out in the reports attached and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making its final decision.

95. A summary of responses is collated in Enclosure 7 and the local authority has given due regard to those responses in considering the recommendations to put before Cabinet.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

96. The Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed in full and is attached in Enclosure 4. The adoption of determined admission criteria is a mandatory requirement supported by primary legislation. The policy relating to community and voluntary controlled schools does not discriminate according to age, gender, ethnicity, faith, disability or sexual orientation.

97. Measures have been taken to reference vulnerable groups both in terms of exceptional arrangements within admissions, the SEND process and the in-year fair access protocol. In addition, a right of appeal exists for all applicants who are refused a school place.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

98. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant, a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Environmental sustainability	Set out below
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

CORPORATE PARENTING/LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN IMPLICATIONS

99. The proposed admission arrangements give top priority to children who are Looked After or accommodated by a local authority and to those children who have left care through adoption, a child arrangements order or a special guardianship order.

100. The proposed admission arrangements also give priority within criterion two for exceptional social/medical need, to children who were previously in state care outside England who left that care as a result of being adopted. This is in line with advice issued by the Department for Education and the stated wish of the Minister of State for School Standards. The DfE are currently consulting on an amendment to the School Admissions Code to give this group of children top priority for a school place but this change cannot be made until a new Code comes into force.

SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND ADULTS IMPLICATIONS

101. The efficient and timely administration of the school 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.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

102. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
103. Since 2017 the County Council's Safer Travel Team have promoted a new national online system called Modeshift STARS www.modeshiftstars.org. This system is supported by the Department for Transport. The Modeshift STARS website provides materials for schools to create a School Travel Plan. A school can choose a number of interventions such as Bikeability cycle training and the Golden Boot Challenge to help achieve their accreditation. Successful implementation of School Travel Plans will lead to improvements in road safety and more sustainable travel on school journeys. This will reduce congestion, improve air quality, and active travel will improve the health of children.
104. The admission arrangements will still enable the majority of pupils to attend their nearest school and so reduce travel and support policies on cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
105. Children will continue to be considered for home to school transport in line with Surrey's Home to School/College Travel and Transport policy and information on this is provided to parents in Section 22 of Enclosure 1.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- The September 2022 admissions arrangements as agreed by the Cabinet will be ratified by the full County Council on 9 February 2021.
- The determined admission arrangements will be published on Surrey's website by 15 March 2021 and all consultees will be notified.
- All Surrey schools will also be notified of the determined admission arrangements in the Admissions termly newsletter, issued as part of the Schools Bulletin at the start of the Summer Term 2021.
- The arrangements will be published in the primary and secondary admissions booklets in August 2021, which will be made available to parents online and in hard copy by request in September 2021.
- The information on school admissions will be circulated to the Contact Centre, Surrey County Council Libraries and Early Years.
- Full information on school admissions for 2022 entry will also be published on Surrey County Council's website in September 2021.

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Rachel Hickman, Legal and Democratic Services
Mike Singleton, Service Manager for Education Place Planning
Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Parent Governors of all Surrey schools
Early Years establishments in Surrey
Diocesan Boards of Education
Neighbouring local authorities
Out of County own admission authority schools within 3/5 miles radius of the Surrey border

Surrey County Councillors
Parish Councils
Local MPs,
General public consultation via Surrey Says/schools/Contact Centre

Annexes:

Enclosure 1	Admission arrangements for community & voluntary controlled schools
• Appendix 1	Published Admission Numbers (PANs)
• Appendix 2	Schools which will operate shared sibling priority
• Appendix 3	Schools not to be considered in assessment of nearest school
• Appendix 4	Catchment map for Southfield Park Primary
• Appendix 5	Supplementary Form for staff applicants
Enclosure 2	Primary and secondary coordinated schemes
Enclosure 3	Surrey's Relevant Area
Enclosure 4	Equality Impact Assessment
Enclosure 5	Schools and whether change is proposed
Enclosure 6	Summary of consultation
Enclosure 7	Outcome of consultation
• Appendix 1	Comments on use of nearest school
• Appendix 2	Response from Trinity Oaks C of E Primary School

Sources/background papers:

- School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
- School Admissions and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2002
- School Admissions Code 2014
- Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning report and decision – 13 October 2020
- ADA3589 Stamford Green Primary School - determination by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator dated 9 October 2019
- DfE advice on the admission into school of children previously in state care outside of England