



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
Cabinet**

**18th March 2010
29th March 2010**

ANNUAL CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENTRY IN 2011/12

Report of the Strategic Director, Children

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. As Admission Authority for the Community Schools in the City, Leicester City Council is required to consult upon and publish its admission arrangements for entry in September 2011/12 by 15th April 2010.
- 1.2. This report briefs Cabinet on the outcome of the recent Consultation exercise on Admission Arrangements for 2011/12 and seeks immediate approval for the publication of City Council admission arrangements for 2011/12.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Recommendations for consideration are detailed in Section 4 and summarised below.
- 2.2. The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider this report and make comments it wishes for consideration by Cabinet.
- 2.3. Cabinet is asked to approve the admission arrangements for the 2011/12 academic year for Community Schools, incorporating the changes that were the subject of consultation as detailed below:
 - 2.3.1. Change the present Priority Area for Riverside Business and Enterprise College to a Linked area for Fullhurst Community College, The Lancaster School and Sir Jonathan North Community College.
 - 2.3.2. Amend the 'tie-break' criterion, where there are more pupils living in the Priority Area than places available, to allow priority to pupils with siblings who will be attending the school at the time of starting school. Any remaining places will be allocated to pupils who live closest to the school.
 - 2.3.3. Introduce an extended closing date for pupils moving into or within Leicester after the National Closing Dates, with the dates of 26th November 2010 for Secondary, and 11th February 2011 for Primary.
 - 2.3.4. The variation of admission numbers in a small number of City primary schools to improve class organisation and assist school improvement as detailed in Section 4.1 (d).

3. Summary

- 3.1. As Admission Authority for the Community Schools in the City, the Council has a duty to consult annually on admission arrangements to these schools. A small number of relatively minor changes are proposed this year and the consultation revealed broad support for the changes.
- 3.2. The consultation took place between January 4th 2010 and March 1st 2010 and was carried out by way of a Public Notice, circulation to all schools and publication on the Council website.

4. Report

4.1. Proposed changes

The general information about Leicester's policies and arrangements for School Admissions can be found within our three information booklets (*Starting School*, *Transfer to Junior School*, and *Transfer to Secondary School*). These booklets can be obtained from the School Admissions Service and are available online at <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/admissions>

- 4.2. Proposed changes to the arrangements for the 2011/12 academic year for Community Schools are as follows:

4.2.1. **Pupils living in the Priority Area for Riverside Business and Enterprise College**

The closure of Riverside Business and Enterprise College in August 2011 has been approved by the City Council's Cabinet and special arrangements have been put in place in order to allocate new school places to those pupils who will be affected by the closure.

It is proposed that the present Priority Area for Riverside Business and Enterprise College becomes a Linked Area with priority for Fullhurst Community College, The Lancaster School and Sir Jonathan North Community College. This is in line with the approach used previously when schools have closed. A full explanation of Linked Areas can be found on page 34 of the *Transfer to Secondary School* booklet, but in summary the approach taken is if an address lies in an area previously served by a secondary school, that area is known as a Linked Area and that address would have priority at more than one school, under the 5th admission rule.

It is acknowledged that these arrangements have come about due to changes in school organisation over the years and are not sustainable. Work is needed to establish a more sustainable model for admissions and planning for this work to be undertaken has begun. Details on the scope of this work and a project timetable will be presented to cabinet in due course.

4.2.2. **Amendment of the "tie-break" when it is not possible to allocate places to all pupils within a Priority Area**

Very rarely, at some schools, it is not possible to allocate places to all pupils living in the school's Priority Area. In these circumstances, places are allocated on the basis of distance from the school with the result that it is possible that a pupil with a sibling at the school may possibly not be allocated a place. It is proposed, therefore, that higher

priority within the tie break is given to pupils living in the Priority Area with siblings who will be attending the school whether or not other children live closer to the school. The remaining places will be allocated to pupils who live closest to the school.

For the purpose of admissions to community schools in Leicester City a sibling is defined as:

Pupils with a sibling (brother or sister) who will be attending the same school in year groups 7,8,9 and 10 from the proposed time of entry. (Sibling includes: step, foster or half brother/sister living at the same address.)

4.2.3. **Changes to closing dates for admission applications**

For 2011 admissions, the Government has introduced National Closing Dates for the receipt of applications; these dates are 31st October 2010 for Secondary Applications and 15th January 2011 for First Time Admissions.

It has been suggested that extended closing dates *for pupils moving into or within Leicester after the National Closing Date* are re-introduced.

The latest these dates could be in order for applications to be processed on time would be 26th November for Secondary and 11th February for Primary.

4.2.4. **Changes to Published Admission Numbers (PANs)**

During the course of consultation, the following proposals for changes to Admission Numbers emerged. These are as follows:

School	Current PAN 2010/11	Proposed PAN 2011/12	Rationale
Mowmacre Hill Primary School	50	45	To improve class organisation and support school improvement
St Barnabas C of E Primary School	45	40	To reflect the physical capacity of the site and the built learning environment

4.3. **Consultation responses**

One response has been received to the consultation. It supports all of the proposed changes.

4.4. **Secondary School Admission Numbers**

No changes are planned to secondary schools for September 2011. The Strategy for Change for Building Schools for the Future will require changes to some school admission numbers in the next few years. Any proposed changes will be covered in future years Annual Consultation on Admission Arrangements.

5. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising directly from the proposals in this report, although admission arrangements in general play a part in promoting the effective use of resources across schools.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance & Efficiency, CYPS, ext 7750

5.2. Legal Implications

The determination of admission arrangements is a legal responsibility of the council. It must be carried out by 15th April each year. Objections to the determined arrangements can be made to the Schools Adjudicator until 31st July.

Kamal Adatia, Head of Community Services Law, ext 7044

6. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	YES	Section 4.1	
Policy	NO		
Sustainable and Environmental	NO		
Crime and Disorder	NO		
Human Rights Act	NO		
Elderly/People on Low Income	NO		

7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

Consultation with schools on Annual Admission Arrangements 2011/12

8. Consultations

Consultation was carried out from January 4th 2010 to March 1st 2010 in accordance with the Statutory Requirements. A Public Notice was issued and details of the consultation circulated to all schools. An on-line response form was posted on the Council website.

9. Report Author

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Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)