

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2010-2011

1.0 Summary

This report invites the Cabinet to initiate consultation on the arrangements for admission to secondary schools in 2010 – 2011.

2.0 Background

The Education Act 2002 requires the Authority to consult annually on its admission arrangements for secondary schools. Regulations require that the consultation be completed by 1 March in the year preceding the admission year, and that the arrangements be determined by 15th April in the preceding year. The Authority is also required to consult annually on the arrangements set out in the coordinated admissions scheme. It is likely that in 2009 new regulations will allow the Authority and other admissions authorities to consult every 3 years.

A copy of the proposed coordinated scheme for admissions to secondary schools in 2010-2011 is attached (Appendix 1).

4.0 Consultation on admission Arrangements to Community Secondary Schools

A table is attached of current admission numbers for secondary schools (Appendix 2). The proposals to change the admission number for 2010-2011 are in line with the net capacity calculations for each school. In 2004 the DfES introduced a revised formula for determining school capacity calculated using the 'Net Capacity Assessment Method' which is based on the physical capacity of the school. This paper seeks views on any aspect of current or proposed admission numbers for 2010-2011. Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools are obliged to consult on their proposed admission numbers and policies separately.

Only one proposed change has been made to the admissions criteria for community schools. Advice from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator indicated that it was unlawful to take into account reasons which could override the geographical criteria. This provision has now been deleted from the oversubscription criteria for community schools.

If the proposal to open the Birkenhead High School Academy is confirmed then it will be included in the Coordinated Scheme. Further amendments may also be necessary if schools achieve foundation status.

5.0 Financial, Staffing, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, Planning, Local Agenda 21, Local Member Support, Community Safety, Social Inclusion and Anti-Poverty Implications

There are none.

6.0 **Background Papers**

6.1 The School Admissions Code 2008.

7.0 **Recommendations**

71 That the consultation on admissions to secondary schools takes place in the spring term 2009.

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