

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Corporate Director for People
to
Cabinet

on
7th January 2014

Report prepared by: Mike Singleton –Group Manager School
Funding, Access and Capital

School Admissions Arrangements for Community Schools and the Coordinated Admission Arrangements for Academic year 2015/16

Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To report on the admission arrangements for community schools and the Coordinated Admission Arrangements Scheme for 2015/16.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Admissions Arrangements for community schools for the academic year 2015/16 be determined as set out in Appendix 1**
- 2.3 **To note that the Coordinated Admission Arrangements Scheme for 2015 is determined as set out in Appendix 2.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has the responsibilities to determine in relation to school admissions:
- a) the admission arrangements (admission numbers, admission criteria and catchment areas) for community schools;
 - b) the coordinated admissions scheme, which sets out the way in which admissions for all schools (including academies and free schools) will operate.

- 3.2 The Schools Admissions Code sets out the requirements for consultation as follows:

*“Admission authorities **must** set (‘determine’) admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority **must** first publicly consult on those arrangements. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they **must** be consulted on at least every 7 years. Consultation must be for a minimum of 8 weeks and **must** take place between **1 November** and **1 March** of the year before those arrangements are to apply.”*

- 3.3 As there are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for community schools nor to the Coordinated Admission arrangements, there no requirement to consult.

3.4 The proposal not to consult was reported to Admissions Forum on 10th October 2013.

3.5 For a community schools, the local authority (as admission authority) **must** consult the governing body of the school where it proposes either to increase or keep the same PAN and this took place at the end of the Autumn term

4. Admission Arrangement for 2015/16

4.1 Provisional admission numbers for September 2015 were considered by Cabinet on 2nd November 2010 as part of the strategy for the provision of primary places. A report elsewhere on this agenda outlines expansion at the Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior schools that will be subject to a statutory consultation process putting the published admission number (PAN) to 150.

4.2 There are no proposed changes from 2014/15. The proposed admission criteria for community primary schools for September 2015 are shown in Appendix 1.

4.3 There are no proposed changes from 2014/15 to the catchment areas for primary schools for September 2015 and a map illustrating the areas is within Appendix 1 on Page 6.

5. Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for the September 2015 round of admissions

5.1 Schemes for co-ordinating all admission applications to schools must be formulated and submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) by 1st January in the determination year, which for the school year starting in September 2015 will be by 1st January 2014.

5.2 Consultation rules for coordinated arrangements are the same as admission arrangements and only need consultation once every seven years unless there are changes. The scheme for 2015 does not propose any changes.

5.3 The determined scheme for 2015 is attached as appendix 2.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 Determination of the admission arrangement for community schools and the coordinated admission scheme for all schools is a requirement of legislation.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities – These arrangements will assist pupils within the Borough to access to quality learning opportunities to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children.

7.2 Financial Implications – There are no direct financial implications for the Council. The administration of school admissions is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

- 7.3 Legal Implications
The determination of admission arrangements for community schools and the provision of a co-ordinated admissions scheme is a statutory requirement.
- 7.4 People Implications
None
- 7.5 Property Implications
None
- 7.6 Consultation
The views of the Admission Forum were sought at a meeting held on 10th October 2013 and the Forum agreed to the proposals in this report. Individual Governing Bodies have been consulted as at paragraph 3.5.
- 7.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications
A co-ordinated admissions scheme and clear oversubscription criteria are necessary to ensure fair access to school places.
- 7.8 Risk Assessment
If the Council does not agreed a scheme, one will be imposed by the DfE, and the Council's reputation will suffer.
- 7.9 Value for Money
No direct implications.
- 7.10 Community Safety Implications
None envisaged.
- 7.11 Environmental Impact
None envisaged

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 [School Admissions Code 2012](#) and [School Admission Appeals Code 2012](#)
- 8.2 Admissions Forum – School Admissions report 10th October 2013.
- 8.3 Cabinet 2nd November 2010 – “Provision of Primary School Places”.
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>
- 8.4 Cabinet 13th March 2012 – “School Admissions 2013-14”.
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

9. Appendices

- 9.1 **Appendix 1** – The proposed admission criteria for community primary schools for September 2015.
- 9.2 **Appendix 2** - Proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for September 2015 onwards.