

EXECUTIVE

DATE: 30 MARCH 2009

SUBJECT: DETERMINED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2010/11

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & LEARNING

CONTACT OFFICER: DEBORAH CRAIG, ADMISSIONS & PLANNING MANAGER Tel: 548015

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	STAFFING	
EQUALITIES	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY	✓
FINANCIAL	✓	RISKS	

OTHER

CONSULTATIONS:

COUNCILLORS CONSULTED	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTED
STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LEAD EXECUTIVE MEMBER(S): COUNCILLOR T. KHAN

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Executive is recommended to approve the admission arrangements as set out in Appendix A and request that officers challenge the admission arrangements of other admitting authorities in respect of academic year 2010/11, in accordance with the recommendations of Luton's Admissions Forum and guidance contained within the Admissions Code.

REPORT

- Although the Council is the admissions authority for Luton's community schools, it must consult the governing bodies of these schools on the admission arrangements it proposes for the following year. The vast majority of schools that responded supported the proposed admission arrangements. Responses are summarised at Appendix B.

3. In accordance with legislation, a further consultation paper was issued to the governing bodies of all admitting authorities in Luton, neighbouring local authorities and all schools within a three-mile radius of Luton. The Council also placed a notice in the Luton Express to alert parents to the consultation and further publicised the consultation process through posters displayed schools. The Council has not received any objections to its proposed admission arrangements for community schools.
4. Additional information has been added to the admission arrangements to ensure compliance with the new Admissions Code which came into force on 10 February 2009.
5. Following the consultation process the Council must now finalise its 2010/11 admission arrangements for community schools and notify all those consulted of the determined arrangements.
6. On 12 February 2009 Luton's Admissions Forum met to discuss the admissions criteria proposed by the different admitting authorities in the Borough. The Forum agreed with the Council's observations and comments in respect of the arrangements proposed by other Luton admission authorities.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. All admission authorities must consult by 1 March in the determination year on the admission arrangements for those schools for which they are responsible, unless (in the case of admission arrangements for entry in 2011-12 and subsequent years) their admission arrangements were consulted on in one or both of the two previous years and they are the same as the arrangements since the last consultation. All admission authorities are required to consult on admission arrangements for 2010-11.
8. Admission arrangements must comply with the revised Admissions Code, issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, which came into force on 10 February 2009.
9. This report has been seen and cleared with Farida Hussain in Legal Services on 13 March 2009.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The proposed admission arrangements for September 2009 will result in no financial loss to the Council.
11. The Finance Manager, Children & Learning, confirmed this position on 16th March 2009.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12. The Council's determined admission arrangements aim to ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils in the admissions process. The arrangements comply with Admissions Code, which sets out fair and lawful admissions practice and requirements. This was confirmed with the Equalities Officer on 12th March 2009.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

13. Giving priority to primary aged children with siblings attending the school, after pupils with a Statement of SEN and children in care, should minimise the need to split families between two primary school sites. After the sibling criterion, priority is given to catchment area pupils to ensure the distance pupils need to travel from home to school will be minimised. This will aid the reduction of traffic congestion in and around local schools.

OPTIONS

14. The Executive may:
 - a) accept the recommendations in whole or in part or
 - b) reject the recommendations in whole or in part or
 - c) refer the matter back for further information.

RISKS

15. The admission arrangements determine how places will be allocated when there are more applicants than places available. The arrangements set out at Appendix A comply with the Admissions Code and must be finalised by 15 April 2009.

APPENDIX

16. The following Appendices are attached to this report:
 - ❖ Appendix A – Admission Arrangements for Luton's Community Schools for September 2009.
 - ❖ Appendix B – Summary of Responses from Luton's Community Schools.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. School Admissions Code of Practice, issued by the Department for Children, Schools and Families – copy with Deborah Craig, Unity House.
18. Executive report – 26 August 2008.
19. Admission Forum report (12 February 2009) entitled Proposed Admission Arrangements for 2010/11.