

**AGENDA ITEM**

**COMMITTEE:** RACE ADVISORY FORUM  
**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2005  
**SUBJECT:** ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2007/8  
**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & LEARNING  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** DEBORAH CRAIG, ADMISSIONS & PLANNING MANAGER  
548015

**IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>LEGAL</b>	✓	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b>	✓
<b>EQUALITIES</b>	✓	<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
<b>FINANCIAL</b>		<b>CONSULTATIONS</b>	
<b>STAFFING</b>		<b>OTHER</b>	

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

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**PURPOSE**

1. To inform members of the Race Advisory Forum on proposed admission arrangements for community schools for 2007/8.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. The Race Advisory Forum may wish to comment on the proposed admission arrangements. The views of the Forum will be reported to the Executive.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. Luton Borough Council is the admitting authority for all community schools in Luton.
4. The following five schools are foundation schools. Responsibility for admission and appeal arrangements rest with the governing body.

Ashcroft High School  
Icknield High School  
Lea Manor High School  
Stopsley High School  
Crawley Green Infant School

4. The following eight schools are voluntary aided schools. Responsibility for admission and appeal arrangements rest with the governing body.

Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School  
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School  
St Joseph's Catholic Infant School  
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School  
St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Infant School  
St Margaret of Scotland Catholic Junior School  
St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School  
Wenlock Church of England Junior School

5. By law, all admitting authorities are required to consult on their proposed admission arrangements.

## **REPORT**

6. Although the Council is the admissions authority for Luton's community schools, it must consult the governing bodies of these schools on proposed admission arrangements. The consultation document appended to this report was sent to all community schools in September 2005.
7. The results of the consultation will be reported to the Executive on 9 January 2006. At this meeting the Executive will be asked to approve a second consultation document for circulation to governing bodies of all foundation and voluntary aided schools in Luton, neighbouring LEAs and all schools within a three-mile radius of Luton.
8. Following the second stage of the consultation process the Council must finalise its 2007/8 admission arrangements for community schools by 15 April 2006 and notify all those consulted of the determined arrangements.

9. The consultation document sought the views of schools on holding waiting lists for new junior and high school intakes (Years 3 and 7) until 31 October 2007, as opposed to the end of July 2008. Parents wishing to remain on a waiting list beyond October 2007 will need to reapply for a place at their preferred school. This change is proposed because many parents decline a place offered via the waiting list later in the year because their child has settled into their new school.
10. The other significant change to admission arrangements relates to the introduction of the Equal Preference System. Further information on this proposal is included in the consultation document appended to this report.

### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

11. The Forum may wish to comment on the proposed admission arrangements. The views of the Forum will be reported to the Executive.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the admission authority for a maintained school to determine, before the beginning of the school year, the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year. Normally this annual determination must be preceded by consultation. However, Regulations allow governing bodies who are the admission authority for their school not to consult in certain circumstances. To qualify for a suspension of consultation an admission authority must have consulted all appropriate bodies in the previous determination year, and its admission arrangements must not have been the subject of an objection to the Schools Adjudicator in the previous 5 years. In addition, the admission authority must not be seeking to change their admission arrangements from the previous year. They will, however, still have to consult every alternate year thereafter even if there is no change in their published admission arrangements. Unchanged arrangements can still be the subject of objections to the Schools Adjudicator.

### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

13. The Council's proposed admission arrangements aim to ensure equality of opportunity for all pupils in the admissions process.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

14. In giving priority to catchment area children, after pupils with a Statement of SEN and looked after pupils, 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.

## **APPENDIX**

15. Appendix A: Consultation paper outlining proposed admission arrangements for Luton's community schools for September 2007.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

16. School Admissions Code of Practice, issued by the Department for Education and Skills – copy with Deborah Craig, Unity House.