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To: Cabinet – 30 March 2009

Subject: LOCAL AUTHORITY PROPOSED CO-ORDINATED SCHEME FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN KENT AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS 2010 /11

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To report on the outcome of the consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for transfer to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2010. Cabinet is asked to determine the admission arrangements for that school year and determine the coordinated schemes for Primary & Secondary Admissions in Kent.

Introduction

1. (1) The Local Authority (LA), as the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, is required to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for these schools annually, and to determine its admission arrangements by 15 April each year.

(2) The Education Act 2002 introduced a duty on each LA, to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area and to take action to secure the agreement to the scheme by all admission authorities. There have been no objections to the proposed coordinated schemes for Primary and Secondary Admissions for 2010. Cabinet are requested to determine the 2010 Co-ordinated scheme for Admissions to Primary and Secondary schools in Kent.

(3) All admission arrangements identified in this document are outside the arrangements for pupils with statements of special education need which take place in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice (2001) Paragraph 5.72.

(4) The LA has consulted the headteachers and chairmen of governors of all Kent primary and secondary schools; neighbouring LAs; diocesan bodies; independent schools (which have pupils transferring to secondary schools); parents and parental groups on its proposals to co-ordinate admissions to all Kent Primary Secondary schools in September 2010.

(5) The LA consulted with the Admissions Forum on the content of the consultation and reported back to the forum on 5 February 2009. The Admissions Forum supported the continuation of the existing schemes, and agreed the need for minor changes in the primary scheme dates in order to avoid the Easter Holiday clash.

Consultation and Outcome

2. (1) The consultations considered the following aspects:

- (a) The Primary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for 2010/11;
- (b) The Secondary Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for 2010/11;
- (c) Over-subscription criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools;
- (d) The relevant statutory consultation areas for Primary and Secondary schools;
- (e) Published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools.

(a) The Primary Co-ordinated Scheme

3. (1) All Primary Admissions Authorities within Kent agreed to the proposed Co-ordinated scheme being in line with dates used in 2009. One response highlighted a clash in dates with the Easter Holiday in 2010 and a further brief consultation was held to set an earlier closing date in December.

(2) Concerns were then raised regarding parental expectation of a January closing date and the change in legislation which will mean from 2011 the closing date must be 15 January.

(3) Having considered all responses the LA has proposed a new set of scheme dates that allows the closing date to remain in January but in effect moves the whole process back one week for 2010. A Primary Admissions Scheme with revised dates is presented in Appendix A

(b) The Secondary Coordinated Scheme

4. (1) The Secondary Coordinated Scheme was agreed by all Kent Admissions Authorities. There was less feedback and comments made about the scheme than in previous years, however, it is considered that this is as a direct result of the existing scheme

(imposed by the Secretary of State) simply carrying over for another year with no significant changes proposed.

(c) The Oversubscription Criteria for Primary and Secondary Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.

The oversubscription criteria have not changed from 2009/10, other than minor amendments to some of the wording to reflect comments made by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator following the compliance exercise carried out in the Autumn of 2008. Details of the oversubscription criteria for Primary Community and VC schools is outlined in Appendix A. Details of the oversubscription criteria for Secondary Community and VC schools is outlined in Appendix B.

(d) Relevant Statutory Consultation Area

Details of the relevant statutory consultation areas have not changed from 2009/10, details for the Primary arrangements are in Appendix A and Secondary arrangements in Appendix B

(e) Published Admission Numbers

6. The proposed Published Admission Numbers(PAN) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools are identified in Appendix A for Primary schools and Appendix B for Secondary Schools. *(Note: Clarendon Grammar School has reduced the PAN from 115 to 90 places. In 2009 the school was only able to make 67 offers of places and is significantly under subscribed. It is intended that grammar places released through a reduction in the PANs in East Kent as part of the BSF programme, will be reinstated through negotiation with West Kent Grammar Schools to ease pressure on grammar places in the West.)*

Recommendations

7. Cabinet is asked TO AGREE
- (a) The proposed scheme to co-ordinate admissions to Primary schools in September 2010 is determined as set out in Appendix A.
 - (b) The proposed scheme to co-ordinate admissions to Secondary schools in September 2010 is determined as set out in Appendix B.
 - (c) The oversubscription criteria detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined for 2010.
 - (d) The relevant statutory consultation areas detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B relating to Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined for 2010.
 - (e) That the Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary schools are determined as set out in

Appendix A and Appendix B.

Cabinet is asked TO NOTE

- (f) Comments made during the consultation are outlined in Appendix C
- (g) That from September 2010 the LA will be required to administer all Casual Admissions (a process currently devolved to schools and academies) – A further consultation will take place later in the year to develop a 'Casual Admissions Scheme' this must be determined no later than January 2010.

Scott Bagshaw
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