

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting23rd March 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements
(Phase 2)

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 2).

The review sought to understand the demand for reception places across the Borough and had examined the wider aspects of the approach to school organisation in Stockton. In relation to increased demand, the main issue and overall aim of this aspect of the review had been to consider the challenge which the Council would face in relation to reception intake in 2016, 2017 and subsequent years to provide assurances that there was sufficient capacity in each of the six planning areas so that parental preference could be met at acceptable levels. In relation to the wider approach to school organisation, the main aim of this aspect of the review was to listen to the views of parents, governors and school leaders as part of a consideration of options and alternatives in school organisation.

In order to inform the review a series of information gathering sessions were held attended by stakeholders, Members, Head Teachers, Chairs of Governors and parents.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Further work be undertaken with Secondary Head Teachers and Principals to plan for the increasing pressure on secondary places.
2. A further piece of work be carried out to examine the particular socio and demographic trends in Ingleby Barwick. This Task and Finish piece of work to involve representative Governors, Heads and SBC Officers, Ward Members and statisticians from TVU with findings being reported by Summer 2016.

(This would enable the approach to be reviewed and if appropriate used in other areas of the Borough. It would also identify any proposed changes that required further consultation.)

3. The approach taken by the Local Authority regarding annual consultation on determination of admission arrangements continue.
4. The current zone arrangements remain in place but that a feasibility exercise be undertaken to conclude whether any small adjustments could be made.
5. Informal working arrangements continue between families of schools together with implementation of the transition guarantee.
6. Further consultation take place with secondary schools and academies regarding the priority of the sibling link over-subscription criteria for secondary admissions.
7. RC schools working practice in respect of their admissions criteria around distance and feeder schools be reflected in admissions documentation.
8. Timely reporting on admissions numbers and preferences be agreed with Head Teachers.
9. Workshops with parents should take place to explain the equal ranking system at Children's Centres, nurseries and primary schools as part of an improved programme of communication with parents.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2014/15.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 2) as he was a governor at Norton Primary School.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight, 4th April 2016

Proper Officer
29 March 2016