

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

17 MARCH 2016

**REPORT OF CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS (PHASE 2)

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 2).

2. Recommendations

1. That further work be undertaken with Secondary Head Teachers and Principals to plan for the increasing pressure on secondary places.
2. That 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. That the approach taken by the Local Authority regarding annual consultation on determination of admission arrangements should continue.
4. That the current zone arrangements remain in place but that a feasibility exercise be undertaken to conclude whether any small adjustments could be made.
5. That 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. That RC schools working practice in respect of their admissions criteria around distance and feeder schools be reflected in admissions documentation.
8. That timely reporting on admissions numbers and preferences be agreed with Head Teachers.

9. That 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 Recommendations/Decision(s)

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

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or

- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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(PHASE 2)**

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of School Organisation and Admission Arrangements (Phase 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That further work be undertaken with Secondary Head Teachers and Principals to plan for the increasing pressure on secondary places.
2. That 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.)

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9. That 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.

DETAIL

1. The review has sought to understand the demand for reception places across the Borough and has 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 has been to consider the challenge which the Council will face in relation to reception intake in 2016, 2017 and subsequent years to provide assurances that there is sufficient capacity in each of the six planning areas so that we can meet parental preference 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.
2. 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.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. Increasing admissions numbers will have implications for schools budgets and the capital programme. Any proposal to amend admissions arrangements would require formal consultation.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it is making no major change to any policy or service provision.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. The Committee have received evidence from stakeholders, Head Teachers, Members, Chairs of Governors and parents as set out in the final report of the Select Committee.

Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer
Post Title: Team Leader Scrutiny and Electoral
Telephone No. 01642 528158
Email Address: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Education related? Yes

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None