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| MEETING: | LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM |
| DATE: | 15 MARCH 2011 |
| TITLE OF REPORT: | ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2012/13 |
| REPORT BY: | ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER |

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the proposed admission arrangements for 2012/2013 and make a decision around their determination as required by The School Admissions Code pursuant to section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Recommendation(s)

THAT The Forum is requested to agree that the proposed arrangements, shown in appendix 1, be determined for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Alternative Options

1. There are no alternative options.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 Statutory requirement undertaken each academic year

Introduction and Background

- 3 The relevant sections of the current School Admissions Code are shown below:

“1.26 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.”

Given that a consultation process took place for the 2011/2012 admission arrangements and the proposed arrangements for 2012/2013 are the same there has been no need to consult this time round.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Andrew Blackman, Admissions and Transport Manager on (01432) 260927

Key Considerations

- 4 There are no considerations. There are no changes from the previous arrangements other than specific deadline dates..

Community Impact

- 5 None applicable

Financial Implications

- 6 Please see Legal Implications Section.

Legal Implications

- 7 The risk to the LA of non-compliance with statutory regulations is exposure to legal challenge if Herefordshire does not comply with elements of either the School Admissions Code or School Admissions Appeals Code. Failure to comply with the mandatory requirements in these two codes is a breach of the Local Authority's statutory duty to act in accordance with the provisions of these Codes. The Schools Adjudicator is responsible for enforcing the mandatory requirements of these Codes. Any subsequent School Adjudicator determination of objections and decisions made about admission or appeal arrangements that come to his attention are final. Any Local Authorities so affected are required to implement any such determination or decision. If they do not the Secretary of State may direct them to do so.
- 8 Also if we don't apply the Codes correctly then we leave ourselves open to the challenge of maladministration during the course of the Independent School Appeal process.
- 9 There are no direct financial costs associated with breaches to these Codes but we may lose repute and suffer impaired standing which could impact upon any performance standards review undertaken by Central (or Local) Government.

Risk Management

8. Please see the Legal Implication Section.

Consultees

- 9 Admissions arrangements are consulted on every three years unless there are changes during this period. As there are no proposed changes this year, then there is no requirement to consult. The last consultation on admissions arrangements took place last year.

Appendices

- 10 Appendix 1 – Admissions Arrangements for 2012/2013

Background Papers

None