

HEREFORDSHIRE LOCAL ADMISSION FORUM – ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2010/2011 CONSULTATION

REPORT BY ADMISSIONS AND TRANSPORT MANAGER

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

19 MARCH 2009

Wards Affected

Countywide.

Purpose

1. To consider the results of the consultation of the proposed Herefordshire Admission Arrangements for 2010/2011 as required by The School Admissions Code pursuant to section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Background

3. The relevant sections of the new 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. All admission authorities are required to consult on admission arrangements for 2010-11. For consultation on admission arrangements for 2011-12 and subsequent years, the consultation period **must** last for a minimum of eight weeks, between 1 November and 1 March, to ensure that all consultees have enough time to respond. Admission authorities **must** consult with their local authority, all other admission authorities within the relevant area, the Admission Forum, admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas, the relevant religious authority (in the case of the admission authorities of faith schools) and, for admission arrangements for entry in 2010-11 and subsequent years, relevant parents and other groups with an interest in the local area (for example, community groups). Where an admission authority proposes an increase in the published admission number for a school in their admission arrangements, the trade unions representing staff at the school that may be affected by the changes **must** also be consulted. Admission authorities **must** determine their admission arrangements by 15 April in the determination year.

1.27 When consulting other admission authorities, local authorities, Admission Forums and religious authorities, the admission authority **must** send a copy of their proposed admission arrangements and invite comments. When considering

which groups with an interest in the local area to consult, the admission authority **should** have regard to the views of the Admission Forum¹⁸. Where a school borders on a local authority boundary, the admission authority **should** also seek the views of the neighbouring Admission Forum. Admission authorities may consider, for example, consulting service families, traveller groups, minority ethnic groups, citizens advice bureaux or disability groups if appropriate”.

4. In addition for ease of reference the proposed Admission Arrangements that have been consulted upon are shown as Appendix 1. All Herefordshire Schools, parents and other interested parties have been consulted with.
5. The total number of responses received from the consultation was two.
6. One response was from Carol Weston, Choice Advisor, querying the legality of a number of questions in the St Mary's RC High School Supplementary Information Form. In particular questions around a child's detailed medical history including disabilities are not relevant to the admission arrangements.
7. The other response was from a Secondary School headteacher, not directly related to the Co-ordinated Transfer Arrangements but rather making a number of points regarding In-Year Transfers.

Considerations

8. The proposed arrangements in Appendix 2 are different from last year's determined arrangements as a result of including recommendations made by the Schools Adjudicator in a review of admission arrangements last year.

Risk Management

9. The risk to the LA of non-compliance with statutory regulations is exposure to legal challenge. Also non-compliance would have a detrimental effect on the management of school admissions and appeals procedures.

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) **That the draft report is noted and any changes requested by the Local Admission Form be adopted.**
- (b) **The Forum is requested to agree that the proposed arrangements, shown in appendix 2, be determined for the 2010/2011 academic year.**

Background Papers

None

Appendices

Appendices 1 and 2 – Proposed Admissions Arrangements for 2010/2011