

Wards Affected:

All Wards

ITEM 4

DELEGATED DECISION

10 APRIL 2012

**PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS:
SEPTEMBER 2012 AND 2013**

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Purpose:

To report on the consultation on school admissions arrangements for primary and secondary transfers at age 7 and 11 and for children starting school for the first time in September 2013.

To report on the consultation on arrangements for admission outside the normal transfer round from September 2012.

Background:

Admissions authorities are required to consult on their admissions arrangements. This is in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as recently amended by the Education Act 2011 and the School Admissions Code issued February 2012.

The Local Authority (LA), as the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, is required to consult annually on its admissions arrangements, including the LA's co-ordinated schemes for all primary and secondary admissions, which are national requirements.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the administrative boundary of Milton Keynes be reconfirmed as the relevant area for school admissions.
- 1.2 That the primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admission for intakes in September 2013, which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes, be confirmed (attached as **Annex A**).
- 1.3 That the in year primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admission outside the normal rounds from September 2012 onwards, which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes, be confirmed (attached as **Annex B**).
- 1.4 That the oversubscription criteria for admission to community and voluntary controlled primary schools from September 2013, which includes statutory changes and a proposal to change the method of measuring distance from shortest available route to straight-line, be confirmed (attached as **Annex C**).

- 1.5 That the proposed published admissions numbers for September 2013 intakes for all community and voluntary controlled primary schools, which includes some proposed changes detailed at **2.9**, be confirmed (attached as **Annex D**).
- 1.6 That the primary and secondary in year admissions guidance incorporating the Fair Access protocol, which applies to primary and secondary schools and academies in Milton Keynes, be confirmed (attached as **Annex E**).

2. Issues

- 2.1 Between January and March 2012 the LA consulted with headteachers, governing bodies, other admissions authorities (foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools), other local education authorities, diocesan authorities and the secretaries of the professional teacher associations.
- 2.2 The LA took account of legislation on the admissions arrangements included in the Education Act 2011, which came into force in February 2012, and the School Admissions Code issued at that time.
- 2.3 The consultation (attached as **Annex F**) invited comments on:
- The relevant administrative area for admissions purposes;
 - The proposed primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admissions for intakes in September 2013, which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes;
 - The proposed in year primary and secondary admissions co-ordinated scheme for admission outside the normal rounds from September 2012 onwards, which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes;
 - The proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools for intakes in September 2013 and beyond;
 - The proposed published admissions numbers for September 2013 intakes for all primary community and voluntary controlled schools in Milton Keynes;
 - The primary and secondary in year admissions guidance incorporating the Fair Access Protocol, which applies to primary and secondary schools and academies in Milton Keynes;

2.4 Consultation

The consultation was made available on the council's website including contact details for those wishing to obtain hard copies and where to send responses.

There were no responses to this consultation. The response to consultation in previous years has been low. In 2011 there were 5 responses; 2 from parents and 3 from primary schools. In 2010 there were also 5 responses; 2 from parents, 2 from primary schools and 1 from a secondary school.

2.5 **Relevant Area**

The relevant area is the whole of Milton Keynes including the villages to the north sited within the council's boundary. It is proposed that this area should be confirmed as the relevant area.

2.6 **The proposed primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admissions in September 2013 which applies to all admissions authorities including academies in Milton Keynes.**

The LA is required to formulate a co-ordinated scheme (or schemes) for primary and secondary admissions and transfers and to consult.

There are no changes to the co-ordination arrangements for primary and secondary admissions.

2.7 **The proposed in year primary and secondary co-ordinated scheme for admission outside the normal round from September 2012 onwards**

The local authority is required to formulate an in year primary and secondary co-ordination scheme for admissions outside the normal round. There are no changes proposed.

2.8 **The proposed oversubscription criteria for admission to primary community and voluntary controlled schools**

There are two changes to the admissions criteria for primary community and voluntary controlled schools, in line with the draft School Admissions Code which came into effect from 1 February 2012. These are:

- Widening the oversubscription criteria for children in care to include children, previously in care, who immediately after being in care became subject to an adoption, or residence or special guardianship order within the last year.
- Allowing admissions authorities to admit above the infant class size limit for twins and children from multiple births when one of the siblings is the 30th child to be admitted.

In addition we propose to change the criterion used for measuring distance from home to school which is the tie-breaker if there are more applications than places available under a particular criterion.

It is proposed to move from a shortest available route measurement to straight line measurement.

A number of "Own Admissions Authorities" in Milton Keynes use straight line measurement to rank admissions applications, 3 primary and 9 secondary.

A neighbouring authority, Buckinghamshire County Council consulted last year and agreed to move to straight line measurement which will be introduced for the 2013 intakes.

The current arrangement of using shortest available route appears to leave us open to challenge on the route actually used and the mileage. Straight line measurement is less open to challenge. Whichever method is used there will always be some children who have an advantage over others.

2.9 **Proposed Published Admissions Numbers (PANs) for September 2013 intakes**

The schedule attached as **Annex D** lists all primary community and voluntary controlled primary schools with the proposed Published Admission Number for September 2013.

Changes are proposed for:

Falconhurst School – increase by 10 from 50 to 60.
Langland Community School - increase by 10 from 50 to 60.

The proposal to increase the number of available places at these two schools is in line with the Council's duty to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in schools for local children. Targeted input and support is assisting these schools to improve. Additional children will provide the school with increased revenue funding which is also advantageous to schools in these situations.

Middleton Primary School – increase from 60 to 90.
Meadfurlong and Penwith Schools amalgamate from 1 September 2012. The proposed PAN for the new school for September 2013 is 60 at 4+ and 50 at 7+.

The governing bodies of all schools identified above have been consulted with and are in agreement with these proposed changes.

2.10 **Proposed primary and secondary in year admissions incorporating the Fair Access Protocol**

The general guidance document reflects the current arrangements for managing in year admissions incorporating the Fair Access Protocol. There are no proposed changes.

3. **Alternative Options**

- 3.1 The LA is legally required to co-ordinate school admissions arrangements. If the proposals are not agreed the LA would not be able to meet its statutory obligations regarding school admissions arrangements.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

No additional comments.

4.2 Resources and Risk

No additional comments.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

No additional comments.

4.4 Legal

The LA is required to determine admissions arrangements in line with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2011 and in line with the School Admissions Code, both of which came into effect in February 2012.

4.5 Other Implications

No additional comments.

N	Equalities / Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers:

LA consultation document issued January 2012

Consultation responses - none

Education Act 2011

DfE School Admissions Code of Practice issued February 2012