

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:**           **CABINET**

**DATE:**                 **TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2013**

**REPORT BY:**         **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SUBJECT:**             **SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2014**

**1.00**   **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01    To advise members of the outcome of the statutory consultation exercise on the admission arrangements for September 2014 and to recommend approval.

**2.00**   **BACKGROUND**

2.01    Members will be aware that the local authority is required each year to undertake a statutory consultation exercise on its admission arrangements for the following year. For September 2014, the authority must have determined its arrangements by 15 April 2013 and the consultation must be concluded by 1 March 2013. Statutory consultees are the governing bodies of all schools, admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the area, the diocesan authorities and neighbouring authorities.

2.02    Consultation must cover the full admission arrangements, including the admissions policy, oversubscription criteria, the timetable for admissions and the Admission Numbers for each school. This information is attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

**3.00**   **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01    The current admission arrangements have been in place since 2003 and the vast majority of parental preferences (98%) continue to be met in Flintshire. The number of admission appeals, while remaining relatively low, is increasing steadily. In the 2011/12 academic year, there were 66 appeals in total, 41 in the secondary sector and 39 in primary. As anticipated, the total number of appeals to date in the current academic year shows a continued increase, standing at 79 so far. Whilst appeals in the secondary sector have decreased, the number in the primary sector has increased and accounts for 67 of the total so far. This is due largely to oversubscription at Reception stage in certain areas of the County, including Hawarden, Buckley, Holywell/Bagillt and Connah's Quay.

- 3.02 There are no changes proposed to the current admissions policy or oversubscription criteria. However, the opportunity has been taken to clarify the first oversubscription criterion which currently includes “pupils with a statement of special educational needs which includes a named school”. Pupils with a statement naming a specific school must be admitted to the school so it is unnecessary to include this wording. In addition, Information about how the local authority will deal with applications for places from multiple birth children (twins, triplets, etc) when prioritising places has been included, based on the principle of not wishing to split such children. Under the “sibling” rule, such children will be treated as a priority.
- 3.03 The admissions timetable has been drawn up in consultation with neighbouring authorities and takes in to account factors such as allowing parents sufficient time to visit schools and express their preferences, the time needed to process applications, chase up late applications, etc. The timetable does not differ significantly from last year's.
- 3.04 There are no changes proposed to any schools' Admission Numbers (the Admission Number being the maximum number of pupils that should be admitted to an individual year group).
- 3.05 The consultation exercise was carried out between 11 December 2012 and 18 January 2013. No comments were received.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the proposed admission arrangements for 2014/15 be approved.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 The capacity assessments for schools ensure that the use of teaching space and other rooms is accurately and consistently calculated and provide useful information relating to surplus spaces or oversubscription.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 All parents have an opportunity to express a preference for a particular school and all applications are dealt with in an open and transparent manner in accordance with the criteria.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 No further consultation is required.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 All statutory consultees and Flintshire's Schools' Admission Forum have been consulted regarding the admission arrangements for 2014/15.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Admission Arrangements 2014/15  
Appendix 2 - Admission Numbers

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985**  
**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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