

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Consultation on Admissions Arrangements 2016-17
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	9 December 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2885

Purpose of Report: To agree consultation of the admissions arrangements 2016-17

Recommended Action: To approve the consultation on admission arrangements 2016-17

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory requirement

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: West Berkshire Admission Arrangements 2015-16
School Admissions Code

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
E-mail Address:	ineill@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Vicky Pearce
Job Title:	Trading, Finance and Planning Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 503135
E-mail Address:	vpearce@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	Consultation will inform agreement of determined admission arrangements
Financial:	None
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	None
Environmental:	None
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None
Equalities Impact Assessment:	Yes

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	N/A at this stage
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	N/A at this stage
Ward Members:	N/A at this stage
Opposition Spokesperson:	N/A at this stage
Local Stakeholders:	N/A at this stage
Officers Consulted:	N/A at this stage
Trade Union:	N/A at this stage

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to determine Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in their area by 15 April each year. In doing this, Local Authorities must comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and all relevant legislation.
- 1.2 Consultation must take place between 1 November and 1 March and must last for a minimum of 8 weeks. This will be done through a consultation exercise on the West Berkshire Council website. The local stakeholders involved will be parents, West Berkshire schools, other admission authorities, and neighbouring Local Authorities.
- 1.3 The proposed admission arrangements for 2016-17 include the following changes:
 - Addition of criteria for exceptional social and medical needs
 - Removal of the criteria for denominational/non-denominational requests
 - Changes to the Published Admission Number (PAN) for a few specific schools.
 - In the case of multiple births, all of the children will be offered a place.
- 1.4 A separate consultation on the closure of the John O'Gaunt 6th form is required and it is proposed that this runs concurrently with the admissions arrangements consultation. The 6th form admission number has been amended to zero in the PAN of the proposed admission arrangements for 2016/17, with a note that this is subject to consultation.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 2.1 There is no decision to be made and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken (EIA stage 1 completed below).

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 It is recommended that permission to consult is granted to ensure the council meets its statutory requirement.

APPENDIX A

Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

Name of item being assessed:	Consultation on Admissions Arrangements 2016-17
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	
Owner of item being assessed:	Vicky Pearce
Name of assessor:	
Date of assessment:	

1. What are the main aims of the item?
To seek approval to consult on the admissions arrangements 2015-16.

2. Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this.
Age	Positive impact	Legislation determines the process to be followed and the consulted on and agreed admission arrangements determine how places will be allocated if there are more applicants than places. This applies to all children who have reached their 4 th birthday before the application date for primary school and those who are 11-16 for secondary schools.
Disability	Positive impact	All pupils must be given a school place irrespective of any disability.
Gender	Positive impact	Gender is not a distinguishing factor. All are treated equally in both legislation and determined arrangements and all applications assessed in the same way.
Race	Positive impact	School places are provided for

		all pupils of primary school age and secondary school age irrespective of race.
Belief	Positive impact	<p>Parents may choose any school they like when applying and may choose on the basis of belief or not.</p> <p>The removal of the denominational criteria for community and VA schools is in response to its removal by VC schools, and is in line with emerging national practice. It does not prevent a parent from expressing a preference of school on the basis of their beliefs.</p>
Further comments relating to the item:		
Assessments, processes and policies are based on statutory requirements set out in School Admissions code and School Admissions regulations.		

3. Result (please tick by double-clicking on relevant box and click on 'checked')	
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Relevance - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Relevance - This does not need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	

Name: Vicky Pearce

Date: 12 November 2014