

Title of Report:	Admission Arrangements Consultation 2017/18
Report to be considered by:	CDLT
Date of Meeting:	19/10/15

Purpose of Report:	To agree consultation of the admission arrangements for 2017/18
Recommended Action:	To approve the consultation on admission arrangements for 2017/18

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Report

1. Background

- 1.1. Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to determine Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in their area by 28 February each year. In doing this, Local Authorities must comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and all relevant legislation.

2. The Process

- 2.1. 1 Consultation must take place between 1 October and 31 January and must last for a minimum of 6 weeks. This will be done through a consultation exercise on the West Berkshire Council website between 2 November 2015 and 4 January 2016. The local stakeholders involved will be parents, West Berkshire schools, other admission authorities and neighbouring Local Authorities. Admission Arrangements must be determined by 28 February.
- 2.2. The proposed admission arrangements for 2017/18 remain the same as the admission arrangements for 2016/17 with the exception of substituting the appropriate dates for 2017/18. Where admissions arrangements have not changed from the previous year, there is no requirement to consult subject to the requirement that admissions authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years even if there have been no changes during that period.
- 2.3. The only aspect of our admissions arrangements which we propose to change is the catchment areas for Purley Primary, Long Lane Primary and Westwood Farm Infant and Junior Schools . Purley Primary is too small for the number of children living in the catchment area. Not all parents apply for their catchment school but in the last 4 years, demand for places from catchment applicants has exceeded the admission number. The table below provides the actual numbers:

Allocation year	Number of catchment children allocated	Number of catchment children on the waiting list
2015	15	5
2014	15	7
2013	20	
2012	19	

2.4. In 2014, a Purley catchment child was placed in Calcot Infant school which was the closest with a space to their address at 3 miles.

2.5. In 2015, Calcot had no room for unallocated Purley catchment children and children were allocated to Basildon Primary (over 5 miles away) Streatley Primary School (over 6 miles away).

2.6. The Headteachers of the 4 affected schools have been contacted and 4 proposals were presented and the detail is available in appendix 1:

- **A:** To increase the size of the Long Lane Primary School catchment area so that it also includes the existing Purley Primary School catchment area. Purley Primary Schools Catchment Area would remain the same.
- **B:** To increase the size of the Long Lane Primary School catchment area so that it also includes the existing Purley Primary School catchment area. Purley Primary Schools catchment area would be reduced so that it followed the railway line.
- **C:** To change the catchment areas more radically to further enhance the likelihood of Purley children being able to receive an offer of a school place in a local school.
- **D1:** Expanding Westwood Farms catchment area to cover the Purley catchment so that children who live in Purley would live in Purley and Westwood Farms catchment area. To do the same for Long Lane so that Purley residents would live in the catchment area for all 3 schools.
- **D2:** As per D1, plus adjusting the Purley catchment to ensure more of the children north of the railway line are offered places at Purley Primary School.

2.7. The Headteachers and their Governing Bodies unanimously opted for proposal D1 as the preferred option for consultation.

2.8. In line with the guidance in the School Admissions Code, a catchment area is part of a school's admission arrangements and must be consulted upon, determined and published in the same way as other admission arrangements.

3. Conclusion

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

