

Title of Report:	West Berkshire Admission Arrangements 2012-13 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools (EX2160)
Report to be considered by:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	EX2160

Purpose of Report: To Determine the West Berkshire Admission Community and Voluntary Controlled Admission Arrangements 2012-13.

Recommended Action: To Approve the West Berkshire Admission Community and Voluntary Controlled Admission Arrangements 2012-13.

Reason for decision to be taken: Statutory Requirement

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation:

- West Berkshire Admission Arrangements 2011-12
- Co-ordinated Admission Scheme 2012-13
- School Admissions Code 2010

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Plan Priority:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPP2 – Raise levels of educational achievement – improving school performance levels
The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Theme:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by:	
Achieving clear, fair and objective school admission arrangements	

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Barbara Alexander - Tel (01635) 201320
E-mail Address:	balexander@westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	06 January 2011

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Malcolm Berry
Job Title:	Parent and Student Centre Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519770
E-mail Address:	mberry@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy: This is a statutory requirement. Determination of admission arrangements to be agreed at Executive. (Co-ordinated Admission Scheme being agreed by the Admission Forum on 15 December 2010)

Financial: None.

Personnel: None

Legal/Procurement: This is a statutory requirement

Property: None

Risk Management: None

Equalities Impact Assessment: None

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 Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regulations require the Local Authority, being admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, to determine admission arrangements for those schools for the 2012-13 year and to do so by 15 April 2011. Arrangements should not conflict with the West Berkshire Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for all maintained schools in their relevant area agreed by the West Berkshire Admissions Forum.
- 1.2 Regulations require that a consultation is carried out between 1 November and 1 March and that it should last a minimum of 8 weeks.
- 1.3 The consultation for the 2012-13 admission arrangements began on 14 November 2010 and closed on 7 January 2011.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Council agree on continuing with the fundamental admission arrangements in place for 2011-12 for the 2012-13 year that are in harmony with the co-ordinated admissions scheme agreed by the Admissions Forum for 2012-13.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Council determine small changes to the catchment areas of five Community primary schools and one Community secondary school that would harmonise with changed catchment areas for two Voluntary Aided primary schools and one Foundation secondary school. The changes are proposed to manage the demand from catchment area pupils at the primary schools concerned and to retain the co-terminous nature of the secondary schools concerned. These changes will link with proposed catchment changes from the two Voluntary Aided primary schools and one Foundation secondary school, whose governing bodies are the admissions authority.
- 2.3 It is further proposed that the oversubscription criteria within the arrangements remain unaltered other than:
 - an amendment to the definition of a catchment area (Criteria B) to take account of a transition period due to changes in catchment areas outlined above. This is specifically in response to consultation comments received, the majority of which concern the likelihood of places being available for siblings resident within the changed areas, and
 - an amendment to define the period in which to confirm congregation attendance to meet denominational criteria D following comments from the Oxford Diocese.
- 2.4 There have been extensive discussions with the schools concerned with the catchment changes and local members informed at the consultation stage. Additionally the consultation has been widely circulated, published on the councils' website and in local newspapers.
- 2.5 Following consultation responses a number of amendments to the Admissions policy for Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes are proposed relating to application

and allocation dates and the availability of places in the future for funded 2 year-olds from vulnerable families.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 That the proposed admission arrangements attached be determined for the 2012-13 academic year.

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Regulations require the Local Authority, being admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, to determine admission arrangements for those schools for the 2012-13 year and to do so by 15 April 2011. Regulations require that a consultation is carried out between 1 November and 1 March and that it should last a minimum of 8 weeks. The consultation for the 2012-13 admission arrangements began on 14 November 2010 and closed on 7 January 2011.
- 1.2 Arrangements should not conflict with the West Berkshire Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2012-13 for all maintained schools in their relevant area agreed by the West Berkshire Admissions Forum on 15 December 2010.
- 1.3 Consultation was undertaken with all West Berkshire schools and governing bodies, Council Members, Parish Councils, neighbouring LAs and school admission authorities, Diocesan Boards, West Berkshire Admissions Forum, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and internal consultation bodies.
- 1.4 The DfE published a new School Admissions Code in February 2010, the requirements of which were already taken into account when determining the admission arrangements and co-ordinated scheme for the 2011-12 admissions arrangements.
- 1.5 It was agreed to consult on continuing with the fundamental 2011-12 admission arrangements for the 2012-13 year without any amendments.
- 1.6 The admission numbers 2012-13 and the Co-ordinated Scheme for 2012/13 consulted on are provided in the attached Appendices.
- 1.7 The consultation included some small changes to the catchment areas of five Community primary schools and one Community secondary school that would harmonise with consultations on changed catchment areas for two Voluntary Aided primary schools and one Foundation secondary school. This was proposed to manage the demand from catchment area pupils at the primary schools concerned and to retain the co-terminous nature of the secondary schools concerned. It is expected that these will link with proposed catchment changes from schools whose governing bodies are the admissions authority.
- 1.8 Following discussions with headteachers, the governing bodies of St. John the Evangelist Infant School and St. Nicolas Junior School in Newbury, acting as the admission authorities for those schools, are consulting on changes to their catchment areas to improve the levels of catchment area children able to receive preferred places at the schools. The Council's consultation therefore included proposed amendments to the catchment areas for John Rankin Infant and Junior and Falkland Primary schools to provide a more managed availability of success for catchment residents to receive preferred places at those schools.
- 1.9 Map A (attached) shows the North-West of the existing catchment areas for the Voluntary Aided schools of St. John the Evangelist Infant and St. Nicolas Junior, identifying an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area of

the John Rankin Infant and Junior schools be enlarged. It is hoped that alongside this, the governing bodies of the two VA schools will determine on the corresponding reduction to their catchment areas after consultation ending on 1 March 2011.

- 1.10 Map B (attached) shows the Southern areas of the catchment areas for the two VA schools and the John Rankin schools, identifying an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area of Falkland school be enlarged. A corresponding reduction in the John Rankin schools catchment area is proposed and, again, it is hoped that alongside this, the governing bodies of the two VA schools will determine on the corresponding reduction to their catchment areas following consultation.
- 1.11 The catchment areas for St.John the Evangelist, St.Nicolas and the John Rankin schools are entirely within the catchment area for St.Bartholomew's Foundation secondary school and the catchment area for Falkland school falls within the catchment area for Park House Community secondary school. It was therefore proposed, to retain the co-terminality of the primary and secondary areas, that the catchment area for Park House school is enlarged with the area outlined in red on Map B. The governing body of St.Bartholomew's school are currently consulting on the corresponding reduction to their catchment area, which is also due to end on 1 March 2011.
- 1.12 Amendments to the catchment areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily Primary schools in Thatcham to alleviate the imbalance of demand and availability of school places across the two schools were also consulted on. Discussions have been held with the schools concerned and Map C (attached) identifies an area outlined in red where it is proposed that the catchment area for Francis Baily School is enlarged with a corresponding reduction in the catchment area of Spurcroft School.
- 1.13 Consultation responses are outlined in Appendix D with comments regarding any subsequent changes; hard copies of the full consultation responses are available to members in the Members' Room.
- 1.14 A number of responses surround the concerns over families with siblings in catchment areas subject to change with many asking about transitional periods. It has been considered more beneficial to provide a generic amendment to the definition of catchment area so as to include the children whose siblings will continue to attend the schools that would have been their catchment schools but for these changes; this would support the families who clearly identified the preference for their catchment schools at the time of seeking a school place. It is considered that this would not be detrimental to the overall desired effect of improving the levels of catchment children attending their local schools.
- 1.15 Following a response from the Oxford Diocese, a minor amendment has been made to Oversubscription Criterion D to define the period of attendance at congregations (one year) to meet the criterion.
- 1.16 Consultation also included the West Berkshire admission arrangements for Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes. Following consultation responses a discussion was held with schools providing nursery provision (outlined in appendix D) and a number of amendments to the Admissions policy for Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes

are proposed relating to application and allocation dates and the availability of places in the future for funded 2 year-olds from vulnerable families.

- 1.17 It is therefore proposed that the admission arrangements as amended in Appendix A, including the catchment area changes, be determined for the 2012/13 academic year.

Appendices

Appendix A – Admission Arrangements, Year 12 Admission process and Admission Numbers for 2012-13.

Appendix B – Co-ordinated Admission Scheme 2012-13.

Appendix C – Nursery Admission Arrangements 2012-13 for Nursery Schools and Nursery classes.

Appendix D – Consultation Responses.

Appendix E(1) - Map A: North-West Catchment Area of St.John the Evangelist and St.Nicolas Schools.

Appendix E(2) - Map B: Southern Catchment Area of St.John the Evangelist, St.Nicolas and John Rankin Schools.

Appendix E(3) - Map : Southern Catchment Areas for Spurcroft and Francis Baily Schools.

Consultees

- Local Stakeholders:** All West Berkshire schools and governing bodies, Council Members (with additional detailed consultation with local members, etc. Ellen Crumly, Richard Crumly, Owen Jeffrey, Graham Jones, Bob Morgan, Howard Bairstow, Adrian Edwards, leuan tuck, Mike Johnston, Billy Drummond, Julian Swift-Hook), Parish Councils, neighbouring LAs and school admission authorities. Diocesan Boards, Department for Education and Skills, West Berkshire Admissions Forum, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership, Heads Implementation Group
- Officers Consulted:** Ian Pearson, Caroline Corcoran, Malcolm Berry
- Trade Union:** Not consulted