

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

3

**REVIEW OF ADMISSION RULES FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS
2003/04**

Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families

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Executive Member:- Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of report

To make proposals for possible secondary admission rules and priority areas for 2003/04.

2. Summary

2.1 Consultation outcomes and suggested rules will be discussed at the CSF Scrutiny Committee and CSF Resources Panel on 20 March. The Panel report is appended.

2.2 Recommendations will be presented to the Cabinet on the basis of these discussions and a final analysis of the statutory consultation which ends on 15 March.

2.3 Interim analysis indicates a good level of support for the proposed rules and most of the priority areas (80% agreement up to 5 March). The issue which has led to the most vigorous debate is the proposal to include Sandringham School in a priority area which comprises Harpenden, Sandridge and Wheathampstead. The basis for this proposal is to ensure that families in Wheathampstead and other villages have a chance of securing a ranked school in their priority area. A final recommendation on this and other priority areas will be presented to the Cabinet meeting.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Feedback to date indicates support for the proposed rules:-

(a) Co-educational Community Schools

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school

- Rule 3:** Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application.
- Rule 4:** Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, in consultation with the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.
- Rule 5:** Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule to apply to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA following consultation with their Governing Bodies
- Rule 6 :** Children who live in the priority area and who would have further to travel to another non-faith co-educational school than the one applied for. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest to the school.
This rule will be applied until 90% of places at the school have been allocated.
- Rule 7:** Children who live in the priority area who live closest to the school.
- Rule 8:** Children who live outside the priority area and who would have further to travel to another non-faith co-educational school than the one applied for. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest to the school.
- Rule 9:** Children living outside the priority area who live closest to the school.

(b) **Single-Sex Community Schools**

- Rule 1:** Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school
- Rule 2:** Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school
- Rule 3:** Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application
- Rule 4:** Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, in consultation with the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.
- Rule 5 :** Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule to apply to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA following consultation with their Governing Bodies

Rule 6: Children who live in the priority area. Places will be allocated to each parish or town in proportion to the number of applications made. In the event of there being more applications than places available to a particular parish or town, places will be allocated in the following order:-

- (i) to those who would have to travel further to another non-faith maintained school than the one applied for.
- (ii) to those living closest to the school

Rule 7: Children living outside the priority area who live closest to the school.

3.2 Detailed proposals on the final composition of priority areas and proposed admission rules will be provided for the Cabinet meeting once all consultation, analysis and modelling work is completed and discussed by the Resources Panel.