

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2004 AT 10.00AM**

Agenda item

**4**

## **CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2005-2006**

### *Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families*

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Executive Member: - Robert Gordon

### **1. Purpose of the report**

To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to:

- Comment on the statutory consultation proposals.
- Consider responses received to the consultation proposals for community and voluntary controlled schools along with other issues emerging.
- Consider and comment upon the proposed recommendations from Cabinet to the County Council.

### **2. Summary**

The reports to the meeting of the Cabinet on 15 March are attached for the consideration of the Scrutiny Committee.

The documents comprise the main report along with six annexes:

Annex 1 - Feedback received during the consultation period January and February 2004 and other issues emerging.

Annex 2 - Primary, junior, infant and nursery school admissions.

Annex 3 - Secondary school admissions

Annex 4 - Sixth form admission arrangements

Annex 5 - Co-ordinated schemes of admission for primary and secondary schools.

Annex 6 - Proposed Published Admission Numbers (PAN)

### **3. Access to Service Issues**

The County Council has a duty to consult on the admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools on an annual basis.

This requires the Council to ensure that:

- Arrangements enable parental preference to be met to the maximum extent possible
- Criteria are clear, fair and objective, for the benefit of children including those with SEN, disabilities or in public care.
- Local admission arrangements contribute to improving standards for all pupils
- Parents have easy access to helpful admissions information.

In addition, the Council is required to monitor and co-ordinate all admission arrangements within its area, and, if necessary, refer objections to the Schools Adjudicator on behalf of parents where it appears to the LEA that poor practice has been adopted and the arrangements are not working for the benefit of all parents and children within its area.

#### **4. Conclusions**

The Committee is asked to receive and note this report and to pass on its comments and recommendations to the full Council for consideration at the meeting on 30 March at which the admission arrangements for 2005-2006 for Hertfordshire community and voluntary schools will be determined.