

 <b>Brent</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023
	<b>Corporate Director, Children and Young People</b>
<b>Determination of School Admission Arrangements for Brent Community Primary Schools 2024/25</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Three: Appendix 1: List of Primary Community Schools in Brent Appendix 2: Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2024/25 Appendix 3: Scheme of Coordination for 2024/25
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Michelle Gwyther Interim Head of Forward Planning, Performance and Partnerships <a href="mailto:Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk">Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk</a>  Shirley Parks, Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy 020 8937 4529 <a href="mailto:shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk">shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out the outcome of consultation on proposed amendments to the Admission Arrangements for Brent Community Primary Schools for 2024/25 agreed by Cabinet in November 2022. The report seeks Cabinet's agreement to the proposed admission arrangements and schemes of co-ordination for Brent community schools for the 2024/25 academic year in accordance with statutory requirements. Admission authorities are required to determine their admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes the consultation outcomes on the proposed amendments to the Admission Arrangements.
- 2.2 Agrees the proposed admission arrangements for Brent community schools and the scheme of co-ordination for maintained schools in Brent for the 2024/2025 academic year (Appendix 2 and 3).

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 This report relates to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria of Brent community primary schools only. Brent Council is the admission authority for 30 community primary schools in the Borough (Appendix 1). Voluntary Aided (VA) and foundation schools, academies and free schools are their own admission authority and determine their own admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria.
- 3.2 The School Admissions Code issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act is the legal framework for school admissions matters. The Admissions Code requires that admission authorities have a mechanism to rank applications in order of priority. All schools and admission authorities must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school. Admission arrangements for Brent community schools are determined by the Council as the admission authority.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 14 November 2022, Cabinet granted approval for the Council to carry out public consultation to amend its admission arrangements for the academic year 2024/2025. The reasons for the proposed amendments are set out in the relevant [cabinet report](#).
- 3.4 Consultation was carried out with all relevant parties as identified in the School Admissions Code 2021, for a period of seven weeks between 16 November 2022 and 3 January 2023. The consultation document was available to view on Brent Council's Have Your Say Consultation Portal
- 3.5 Respondents were invited to complete a survey to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the three proposals as set out in Section 4 and to provide reasons for their responses.

## **4.0 Outcome of consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation was undertaken on the following amendments to the existing admission arrangements:

- a) the removal of all admissions criteria determined by catchment area and their replacement with criteria for all siblings and all other children;
- b) a change in priority for children of staff criteria so that this is lifted to become the third main criteria within the admission arrangements;
- c) expansion of the Medical and Social needs criteria to include consideration of the medical or social needs of family members with caring or parental responsibility for an applicant.

4.2 One formal response to the consultation has been received during the consultation period. The respondent disagreed with the proposal to remove community school catchment areas in the Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025 and the proposal to promote the priority level for children of staff in the Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025. The respondent agreed with the proposal to expand the definitions for social/medical priority to include direct family members with parental responsibility in the Admission Arrangements for 2024/2025.

4.3 The purpose of proposing the removal of catchment areas in the consultation is not to make it more difficult for children to access a nearby school and in some cases it will make it easier. Catchment areas are more useful at times of higher demand and their removal will make the oversubscription clearer and easier to understand.

4.4 The consultation closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023. On the basis of the responses received, it is proposed that the three amendments are included in the Admissions Arrangements for 2024/25 (Appendix 2).

4.5 The Schemes of Co-ordination (Appendix 3) adopted by all London authorities are based on the suggested wording provided annually by the London Inter Authority Admissions Group (LIAAG). These were published on the Brent website by 31 December 2022 and will be appended to the Admission Arrangements when they have been determined. There are no changes to the Schemes of Co-ordination from previous years except to update them with the relevant Admission process dates.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

6.1 The Council as admission authority has a duty to undertake consultation on admission policies in order to determine admission arrangements, including admission numbers under Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012/8.

6.2 Admission authorities must act in accordance with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014 and have due regard to the discretionary

elements of the Code. They must also act in accordance with other laws relating to admissions and relevant human rights and equalities legislation.

6.3 Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Highest priority in the oversubscription criteria must be given to looked after children and previously looked after children (Regulation 7, Admission Arrangements Regulations 2012). Subject to these requirements it is for the admission authority to decide which other criteria would be suitable according to the local circumstances.

6.4 The local authority must determine admission arrangements for 2024/25 by 28 February 2023.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

7.1 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.2 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.3 There is no prescribed manner in which the Council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary. The Admissions Criteria ensure fair access to school places. Cabinet is referred to the contents of this report for further information, in particular Section 4.0.

## **8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

8.1 The Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools was briefed on the proposed changes set out in section 4.0. All ward members were included in the consultation.

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

9.1 There are no human resources or property implications.

**Report sign off:**

***Nigel Chapman***

Corporate Director of Children &  
Young People