

Chief Executive's Department  
Civic Centre  
HARTLEPOOL

31 May, 2012

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Ainslie, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Beck, Brash, Cook, Cranney, Dawkins, Fisher, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Jackson, James, Lauderdale, A E Lilley, G Lilley, Loynes, Dr. Morris, Payne, Richardson, Robinson, Shields, Simmons, Sirs, Tempest, Thompson, Turner, Wells and Wilcox.

Madam or Sir,

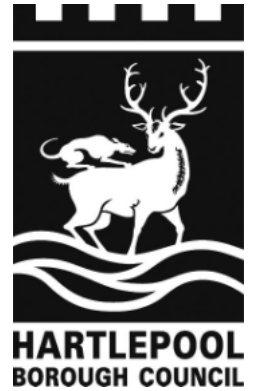
You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 14 June, 2012 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

N Bailey  
Acting Chief Executive

Enc

# **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA**



**14<sup>TH</sup> June 2012**

**at 7.00 p.m.**

**in the Council Chamber  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3.
  - a Referral from Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – Call-In of Decision:  
Proposed School Admissions Arrangements for 2013-14; and
  - b Proposed School Admission Arrangements for 2013-14

# COUNCIL

14 June 2012



**Report of:** Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

**Subject:** REFERRAL FROM SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING  
COMMITTEE – ‘CALL-IN OF DECISION:  
PROPOSED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2013-14

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Council of the referral by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee relating to the ‘Call-In of Decision: Proposed School Admissions Arrangements for 2013-14.
- 1.2 To advise Council of the timetable for consideration of the referral.

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Children’s Services Portfolio, held on 27 March 2012, a report was considered in relation to the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admissions procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2013/14. The formal deadline for submission of admission arrangements to the Secretary of State being the 15 April 2012.
- 2.2 Following the decision of the Children’s Services Portfolio Holder, a Call-In Notice was issued by 3 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 5 April 2012. This notice was accepted by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the 5 April 2012.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, at its meeting on the 13 April 2012 accepted the Call-In and commenced consideration of the issues / concerns raised. The basis of the Call-in being that the decision contravened the principles of decision making in relation to proportionality and reasonableness. The signatories being of the view that they ‘do not believe it to be proportionate or reasonable to put children with siblings already in a school ahead of the majority of children who live within the schools admissions zone’.

- 2.4 During the course of discussions, Members were informed that the Portfolio Holder and Department had received a number of emails from parents with positive comments on the decision taken and that the Portfolio Holder was not aware of any adverse comments being received. Members were, however, concerned that:
- A potential situation could arise where children living within an admission zone would be unable to attend their local community school, as places within that school had been taken by siblings of children already attending the school who live outside the admission zone;
  - Children who may live opposite a school could be unable to attend the school due to children who live outside the admission zone taking places at that school. This could result in two families travelling outside their admission zone to enable their children to attend school; and
  - The full consequences of this decision had not been made clear at the governors' meetings, and parents of children hoping for their child to attend the school within their admission zone would be disappointed with the decision once the full implications of the decision were known.
- 2.5 Attention was drawn to the importance of local community schools being accessible to the families living within that local community and the Committee decided that the matter should be referred to Council to enable a town-wide elected Member debate to be undertaken. These views will then be considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in completion of the Call-in process and formulation of a report back to the Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder.
- 2.6 To assist, copies of the report considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 13 April 2012, and the full minute, are attached at **Appendices 1 and 2** respectively for Council consideration. In additional report is also provided at item 3(b), giving further information in relation to the decision to assist during the course of discussions.

### 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Details of timescales for response to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and onwards are as follows:-
- Council on the 14 June 2012;
  - Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 22 June 2012; and
  - Children's and Community Services Portfolio Holder (TBC).

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Council debates the issues raised as part of the Call-in, as detailed in Sections 2.3 and 2.4 above, and formulates a response / views for consideration by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on the 22 June 2012.

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens – Scrutiny Manager  
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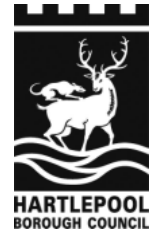
## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Reports and Minutes – Children's Services Portfolio - 27 March 2012
- (ii) Call-in Notice – 5 April 2012
- (iii) Reports and Minutes – Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – 13 April 2012

## **SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**13 April 2012**



**Report of:** Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** CALL-IN OF DECISION: ADMISSIONS  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS TO  
SCHOOLS 2013/14 AND COORDINATED  
ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY & SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS AND IN YEAR TRANSFERS 2013/14  
AND AN UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS  
CODE 2012

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee with the relevant information relating to the Call-In of the decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on the 27 March 2012, in relation to the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admissions procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2013/14, as per the Authority's Call-In procedure.
- 1.2 To enable the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to:-
- i) Make a decision in relation to the acceptance or rejection of the Call-in;  
and
  - ii) Consider, subject to the acceptance of the Call-in:
    - The way forward in dealing with the Call-In;
    - The formulation of a response / comments for consideration by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder (via the Proper Officer).

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Children's Services Portfolio, held on 27 March 2012, a report was considered in relation to the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admissions procedures to primary and

- secondary schools for 2013/14. The formal deadline for submission of admission arrangements to the Secretary of State being the 15 April 2012.
- 2.2 A copy of the report considered by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on the 27 March 2012, and relevant decision record (Minute No. 28 refers), are attached at **Appendices A and B** respectively for Members consideration.
- 2.3 Following the decision of the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, a Call-In Notice was issued by 3 Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 5 April 2012. This notice was accepted by the Deputy Monitoring Officer on the 5 April 2012 and a copy is attached at **Appendix C**.

### **3. CALL-IN PROCESS**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has the power under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, and Rule 14 of the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, to call-in decisions made by the Executive but not yet implemented.
- 3.2 The Call-In notification outlines the reasons why the signatories were of the opinion that the decision had been taken in contravention of the principles of decision making, as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution. The reasons identified in the Call-In Notice are as follows;

#### **i) Proportionality and xii) Reasonableness;**

We do not believe it to be proportionate or reasonable to put children with siblings already in a school ahead of the majority of children who live within the schools admissions zone.

### **4. NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 In the first instance, the Committee must decide whether it agrees with the Members submitting the Call-In Notice that the decision should be Called-In for the reasons set out in the Notice. These reasons should then form the basis for the Committee's consideration of the decision. The Committee will also then need to decide how it wishes to proceed with consideration of the Call-In.
- 4.2 Subject to the acceptance of the Call-In by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, invitations have been extended to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder, and relevant officers, to attend today's meeting and assist Members in their consideration of the Call-in.
- 4.3 Having fully discussed the reasons outlined within the Call-In Notice there are two ways forward:-

- (i) Should the Committee be satisfied that the principles of decision making have not been contravened, the decision(s) will be effective immediately; or
- (ii) Should the Committee remain concerned about the decision(s), comments should be agreed for formal consideration by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder at the earliest opportunity. The next possible Children's Services Portfolio meeting being held on the 24 April 2012. Following receipt of these comments the Children's Services Portfolio Holder would be required to reconsider the decision in light of them and either reaffirm or amend the decision. A response from the Children's Services Portfolio Holder must then be referred to the Committee, setting out the reasons for reaffirming or modifying the decision, in relation to the issues raised by the Committee.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 That Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee decide if they wish to accept or reject the Call-In Notice;
- 5.2 That subject to acceptance of the Call-in:
  - i) Consideration be given to the way forward in dealing with the Call-In;
  - ii) Consideration be given to the whether the decision was taken in accordance with the Principles of Decision Making (as outlined in Article 13 of the Constitution); and
  - iii) Should the Committee be of the view that the decision was not taken in accordance with the Principles of Decision Making, comments be formulated for consideration by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder (via the Proper Officer).

**Contact Officer:-** Joan Stevens– Scrutiny Manager  
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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Hartlepool Borough Council's Constitution
- (ii) Reports and Minutes – Children's Services Portfolio of 27 March 2012
- (iii) Call-in Notice – 5 April 2012



## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
27 March 2012



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS 2013/14 AND  
COORDINATED ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY &  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND IN YEAR  
TRANSFERS 2013/14 AND AN UPDATE ON  
NEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE 2012.

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### SUMMARY

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To determine the admission policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admissions procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2013/14 following consultation with governing bodies, other admissions authorities and the general public.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

A report attached summarising responses to a consultation process on the Admissions Policy, recommending a policy for 2013/14.

#### **3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

Portfolio Holder is responsible for Children's Services issues.

#### **4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

Key decision (ii) reference number CAS105/11.

#### **5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Children's Services Portfolio holder – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## **6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

To determine school admissions policy for 2013/14:

- The proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools which proposes to promote the sibling criteria above school admission zone criteria set out in paragraph 4.1.1 be approved.
- The revised admission limits attached be agreed.
- The Primary and Secondary and In Year Transfers co-ordinated admissions schemes be approved.
- To note changes to the new school admissions code which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.
- To note the proposal that the Admissions Forum should continue to meet in an advisory form.

**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS 2013/14 AND  
COORDINATED ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY &  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND IN YEAR  
TRANSFERS 2013/14 AND AN UPDATE ON  
NEW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS CODE 2012.

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To determine the admissions policy for admissions to schools in 2013/2014 for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hartlepool and the co-ordinated admissions schemes and give an update on the new school admissions code which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **General**

2.1.1 Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 lays down the way in which an Admissions Authority must determine admission arrangements and requires them to consult with governing bodies and other admission authorities. The statutory code of practice, the School Admissions Code (the Code), has recently been changed and a new code came into force in February 2012 and applies to all maintained schools including foundation schools and academies. Admission Authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements comply with the mandatory provisions of the code. This code is made under Section 84 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by Section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Failure to comply with these requirements would mean that Hartlepool Local Authority will be at risk of failing to meet their statutory duty.

2.1.2 The main changes within the School Admissions Code that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 are as follows:

- The role of the Local Authority role School Admissions is to ensure school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way. The Local Authority have to report to the school adjudicator and must also refer objections to them, to ensure the process is fair.
- The adjudicator receives a large number of complaints are made in relation to faith schools. The Local Authority need to ensure that all

schools arrangements comply with the code. The Office of the Schools Adjudicator wants to know when these complaints happen.

- The offer code for Primary Schools will become the same across all Boroughs, having a 'national offer day'. Date for places to be offered will be 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 for 2013-14 admissions.
- The definition of looked after children has been extended to give adopted children / special guardianship orders highest priority for admission. Some provisions in the code are down to local discretion.
- The code will give a greater freedom to schools to be able to increase intake numbers, however, if they are wishing to reduce numbers then will have to go through the formal process.
- Children of staff can be given priority for admission, so long as the member of staff has been employed for two or more years, or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- Exception to infant class size for twins/multiple births.
- There is no exception in the code for siblings in the same year group.
- In year co-ordination has been removed as a requirement from the code.
- Banning of lotteries.
- The requirement to consult has been extended to consult at least once every seven years. Hartlepool review arrangements every year and if there are changes, only then is the need to consult.
- The Office of School Adjudicator will now accept objections from anyone.

2.1.2 In drawing up admission arrangements, admission authorities should aim to ensure that:

- the arrangements enable parents/carers to express a preference as to the school at which he/she wishes education to be provided for his/her child and to give reasons for their preferences;
- admissions criteria are clear, fair and objective, for the benefit of all children, including those with special educational needs, disabilities or in public care;
- local admission arrangements contribute to improving standards for all pupils;
- local admission authorities consult each other and co-ordinate their arrangements, including the rapid re-integration wherever possible of children who have been excluded from other schools;
- parents have easy access to helpful admissions information;
- local admission arrangements achieve full compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance – including on infant class sizes and on equal opportunities – and take full account of the guidance in the Code.

### 3. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

- 3.1.1 Attached at **Appendix 5** is a summary of the consultation responses received. This indicated that all schools that responded noted/supported/agreed the proposals set out in the consultation. Six governing bodies were against moving sibling above admission zone.
- 3.1.2 The views expressed were considered by the Admissions Forum on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The forum discussed in detail the implications of moving sibling above admission zone and voted two for, four against with two abstentions. Following the forum meeting the issue was raised with the Primary Headteachers on 13/03/2012 and after much debate, a 'straw poll' of community and voluntary controlled heads was taken with 6 for and 9 against moving sibling above zone. Not every Headteacher from these sectors was present at the meeting. It was noted that the final decision on this matter would rest with the Portfolio holder for Children's Services.
- 3.1.3 Revised admission limits have been discussed with schools on the basis of revised net capacity figures, and these are attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.1.4 The co-ordinated schemes for primary and secondary admissions and In Year Transfers agreed by the Admission Forum are attached at **Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4**.

### 4. PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2013/14

- 4.1.1 On the basis of the consultation exercise, it is proposed that the admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools in 2013/14 is as follows:

Parents/carers are invited to express preferences for up to 3 primary schools in priority order and give reasons for their preferences.

- In the first instance, places will be awarded to those pupils with a statement of special educational needs where the school is named in the statement.
- The remaining places will be awarded in the following priority order:
  - 1) those children who are looked after children and previously looked after children (*previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order*);
  - 2) those children who have older brothers or sisters who will be attending the school in September 2013; (previously number 3)

- 3) those children who live in the school's admission zone; (previously number 2)
  - 4) those children who are distinguished from the great majority of other applicants whether on medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances and who would suffer significant hardship if they were unable to attend the school;
  - 5) those children who live closest to the school as determined by the shortest suitable walking distance (*measured by the shortest suitable walking route from the (ordnance survey) address point of the child's home address to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system*).
- 4.1.2 No places can be allocated at an oversubscribed school to parents/carers who have not stated their preference in writing for that school.
- 4.1.3 In considering requests for admission to a particular school, all preferences will be considered on an equal basis.
- 4.1.4 If an application is unsuccessful, a child's name may be placed on a waiting list. The position on the waiting list is determined in accordance with the published priority criteria. If a place subsequently becomes available, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.
- 4.1.5 Children born between 1st September 2008 and 31st August 2009 can join the school on a full-time basis in September 2013. Parents/carers can, however, still defer the date of entry to Reception until the beginning of the term after their child's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Allocations for places at primary school will be based on a September intake and admission authorities and schools must keep a place available for that child.
- In the secondary sector, children born between 1st September 2001 and 31st August 2002 will normally transfer to secondary school in September 2013.
- 4.1.6 Parents/carers have the right to appeal if their application for a place for their child is turned down. Details of the independent appeals process will be sent to parents/carers whose applications prove unsuccessful and an alternative placement cannot be agreed.
- 4.1.7 The timetables for secondary and primary admissions for 2013/14 are attached at **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3**.
- 4.1.8 The LA will accept applications which are received late only where there is evidence of a good reason for the lateness AND only if the application is received before offers of places are made. Where the late application

is accepted and offers of places have not been made the application will be treated in the same way as all other applications. In the event of a late application not being accepted or receipt is after the offer of places has been made, then places will be offered at the nearest school to the child's home, that is not already over-subscribed.

## **5. ADMISSIONS FORUM**

- 5.1 The Admissions Forum no longer has a statutory standing following the new codes. The Admissions Forum can continue as a voluntary arrangement if it is of benefit.

The consensus view from schools and the existing Forum is that it is prudent to retain the Forum and it should be kept, as it is an effective arrangement for receiving updates on codes, general matters of interest, feedback, debate etc, and the members are able to report back to other headteachers as necessary.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools which proposes to promote the sibling criteria above school admission zone criteria set out in paragraph 4.1.1 be approved.
- The revised admission limits attached be agreed.
- The Primary and Secondary and In Year Transfers co-ordinated admissions schemes be approved.
- To note changes to the new school admissions code which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.
- To note the proposal that the Admissions Forum should continue to meet in an advisory form.

**Contact Officer:**  
**Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development**  
**Tel: 01429 284103**





**Appendix 1****PROPOSED ADMISSION LIMITS 2013/14**

	<b>2013/14</b>
Bamard Grove Primary School	50
Brougham Primary School	45
Clavering Primary School	55
Eldon Grove Primary School	60
Fens Primary School	60
Golden Flatts Primary School	30
Grange Primary School	50
Greatham C of E Primary School	15
Hart Primary School	12
Holy Trinity CE Primary School	30
Jesmond Gardens Primary School	45
Kingsley Primary School	60
Lynnfield Primary School	55
Owton Manor Primary School	30
Rift House Primary School	30
Rossmere Primary School	45
Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School	60
St. Aidan's C.E. Memorial Primary School	*50
St. Bega's R.C. Primary School	20
St. Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School	30
St. Helen's Primary School	45
St. John Vianney R.C. Primary School	30
St. Joseph's R.C. Primary School	24
St Peter's Elwick C of E Primary School	15
St. Teresa's R.C. Primary School	45
Stranton Primary School	50
Throston Primary School	60
Ward Jackson Church of England VA Primary School	25
West Park Primary School	45
West View Primary School	55
St. Hild's CE VA Secondary School	180
Dyke House Sports & Technology College	*210
High Tunstall College of Science	241
Manor College of Technology	250

English Martyrs R.C. School & Sixth Form College	240
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\* St Aidan's net capacity is under review. Dyke House Sports & Technology College have asked to reduce their admission number to 190. Each member of the School Admissions Forum was invited to express their comment/opinion of the reduction of the admission number for Dyke House and it was the majority opinion that this should be challenged.

## Appendix 2

### CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2013/14

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This scheme is made by Hartlepool Borough Council LA under the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act as amended by the 2002 Education Act.

The proposed scheme for Hartlepool LA is set out below. The proposed dates relating to the admissions process for the school year 2013/14 are attached at **Annex 1 of Appendix 2**.

A separate scheme exists in relation to primary schools and in year admissions.

#### Interpretation

In this scheme -

"The LA" means Hartlepool Borough Council acting in its capacity as local education authority.

"The LA area" means the area in respect of which the LA are the local authority.

"The school" means all community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided and foundation secondary schools which are maintained by the LA.

"Admission Authority" means the LA in respect of any of the schools which is a community or voluntary controlled school, and the Governing Body of the school in respect of a Voluntary Aided or Foundation School.

"Parent" means the parent or guardian with whom the child normally lives.

"Suitable school" means the nearest available school which offers an efficient full-time programme of education appropriate to the individual child's needs in the view of the Authority.

The Co-ordinated Admission Scheme will apply for the admission arrangements for the school year commencing September 2013.

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the 2013/14 school year the provisions set out in this scheme.

The Governing Body of each Voluntary Aided and Foundation School will include in its admission arrangements for the 2013/14 school year the provisions set out in this scheme, so far as relevant to that school.

The scheme shall apply to every secondary school in the LA area (except Catcote special school) and shall take effect from September 2013.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In line with the requirements of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act as amended by the 2002 Education Act, this scheme has been drawn up by Hartlepool LA to co-ordinate admissions to its secondary schools. It applies to all maintained secondary schools in Hartlepool, except special schools, regardless of whether the LA or the governing body is the admissions authority.
- 1.2 The scheme's purpose is to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent living in Hartlepool whose child is due to transfer to secondary school and who has applied for a place in the normal admission round, receives an offer of one, and only one, school place on the national offer day of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. It also sets out the arrangements for handling late applications.
- 1.3 The scheme will be implemented in accordance with the timetable set out in **Annex 1**.
- 1.4 **Annex 1** lists the secondary schools to which the scheme applies.

## 2. Common Application Forms

- 2.1 There will be two forms known as the Common Application Forms, (these are either on line or paper). They will bear the references CAF/1 and CAF/2. CAF/1 will be used for Year 7 applications within the normal admissions round and CAF/2 will be used for all applications outside the normal admission round.

## 3. Applications for Year 7 on form CAF/1

- 3.1 CAF/1 will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year intake group, i.e. Year 7, of secondary education in September 2013. It must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purposes of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Hartlepool LA area who wish to express a preference for their child:
  - to be admitted to a secondary school within Hartlepool (including voluntary aided and foundation schools);
  - to be admitted to a secondary school located in another LA's area (including voluntary aided, academies and foundation schools).
- 3.2 The CAF/1 will:

- invite parents to express three preferences in rank order of preference including any schools outside the LA's area;
  - allow parents to explain the reasons for their preferences;
  - specify the closing date and where it must be returned;
  - allow parents to provide supplementary information in support of their application. The supplementary information form will be part of CAF/1.
- 3.3 The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that CAF/1 forms are available to all parents with year 6 children who will be transferring to secondary schools in September 2013, in line with the timetable attached at **Annex 1**. An information booklet will be sent to parents advising of the benefits of making an on-line application. If a parent/carer would prefer to complete a CAF/1 form, these will be available from the Primary School Office or the LA.
- 3.4 The admissions authority of a Voluntary Aided/Foundation school can require parents who wish to express a preference for their school, to complete the supplementary information form attached to CAF/1. This information is necessary for the admissions authority to apply its over subscription criteria.
- 3.5 Where CAF/1 forms and any other supplementary information is sent directly to Voluntary Aided/Foundation schools by mistake they must be passed to the LA immediately.

#### 4. **Closing Date for Return of CAF/1 and On-line Applications**

- 4.1 Completed CAF/1 forms must be returned by parents direct to the LA, or submitted on-line, by 23:59 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. Where a preference has been received for a Voluntary Aided/Foundation school, the relevant supplementary information should be provided by the parent at the same time.
- 4.2 In relation to over-subscribed schools, preferences which are received or changed after the closing date but before the allocation date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, e.g; where a family has recently moved into the area and was therefore unable to submit the form by the closing date. Parents will be asked to provide information in support of their late application and the relevant admissions authorities reserves the right to seek verification of any information provided.
- 4.3 In the event that an application is received after the allocation process, the admission authorities will be unable to accept the application irrespective of exceptional circumstances. Such an application will be considered after all allocations of places where a parent has expressed a preference.

**5. Determining Offers in Response to the CAF/1**

- 5.1 Places will be allocated using the Equal Ranking Scheme, by all admission authorities within Hartlepool.
- 5.2 The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAF/1. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF/1 where:
- an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
  - an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school for which they have expressed a preference.
- 5.3 Information on the ranking of applicants to Voluntary Aided/Foundation schools must be returned by the relevant admissions authority to the LA in line with the dates specified in Annex 1, either electronically or by post.

**6. Processing Parental Preferences**

- 6.1 By 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012, the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every preference which has been expressed for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information which schools require to apply their over-subscription criteria. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside of the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant LA.
- 6.2 By 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – VA/Foundation schools and other LAs, inform LA of allocation of places for all preferences received in the priority order of their admission policy. All applications made need to be listed in order of priority.

The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and whether these schools can be offered. Liaison will take place between VA/Foundation schools and other LA's until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools for their approval before finalising allocations.

- 6.3 Where a child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, the LA will allocate a place at the nearest school which has places.
- 6.4 By 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:
- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child;
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.

- Where a child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.
- 6.5 By 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the LA will publish their appeals timetable on their website.
- 6.6 On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the LA will post letters (second class) to all parents (if parents applied on-line, e-mails will also be sent on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013) to let them know which school has been allocated to their child. The letter will also tell parents of their statutory right of appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will be asked to return their appeal forms to the appropriate admissions authority or the local authority as appropriate.

Parents will also receive details on what to do if they wish their child to be considered for any places that might become available in schools they ranked higher than the school they are offered, in the reallocation process set out below.

- 6.7.1 By 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013, parents should inform the LA if the offer of a place is not accepted.

Where a parent does not confirm acceptance of a place by 12<sup>th</sup> April 2013, the LA will write to warn the parent that if they do not accept the place within 14 days, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

If the parent fails to reply to the letter from the LA within the 14 days deadline, the parent will be issued with another letter 7 days later. This letter will confirm that the place has been withdrawn and will offer a place at the nearest school to the pupil's home that still has a place available.

## **7. Re-allocation of Places Not Taken Up**

- 7.1 From 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013, the admission authority will re-allocate any places that may have become vacant since the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 offer date. Consideration will be given to all applicants including:
- those who have not been offered any school place, for example as a result of late applications;
  - those who have been offered a place but not at any of the schools they expressed a preference for and a place has become available at one of their preferred schools; and
  - those who have been offered a place at a school which was given as a lower priority on the CAF/1 than the school at which a place has become available.
- 7.2 Places will be re-allocated by applying the admission authority over-subscription criteria. During week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 the LA will

liaise with the governing body for Voluntary Aided/Foundation schools regarding further applicants so that they can be ranked using the admission authority's over-subscription criteria.

## 8. **Waiting Lists**

- 8.1 After the admission round is concluded the LA will not co-ordinate the waiting lists for places at voluntary aided schools or foundation schools. If parents wish for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list they should contact the school direct. If a parent subsequently wishes to make an application for a school, the parent should contact the LA for an application form. The LA will continue to co-ordinate the allocation of places. Waiting lists must be compiled in accordance with the schools admission criteria and places offered accordingly.

## 9. **Late Applications Received After 23:59 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012**

- 9.1 The closing date for applications is 23:59 on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012. As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admission round that are received late and the LA is satisfied that the reasons for the lateness are exceptional, will be accepted provided that they are received before 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (the date the allocations are finalised).
- 9.2 Except in exceptional circumstances, late applications will be considered after all allocation decisions have been made. As far as possible late applications received prior to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 will be offered a school place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, but the closer to the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 deadline that an application is received, the less likely it will be that an offer will be made on that date.
- 9.3 Where it is not possible to offer a place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, a place will be offered as soon as practicable thereafter.

## 10. **No CAF/1 Received by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

- 10.1 Where no CAF/1 is submitted, the child will, on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, be offered a place at the nearest school to the child's home which has a place following the allocation process outlined above.



**ANNEX 1 (of Appendix 2)****TIMETABLE FOR SECONDARY CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS SCHEME**

from 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2012	CAF/1 forms and other information to parents
23:59 pm on 31st October 2012	Closing date for return of CAF/1 online applications or paper.
By 9 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	LA to notify other LAs of any preferences which have been expressed for schools in their area.
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	LA to send CAF/1 forms to voluntary aided/foundation schools of every preference which has been received for their school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information which schools require to apply their over-subscription criteria.
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	All VA/Foundation schools set up admission committees to considered applications.
By 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	The admissions authority at each voluntary aided/foundation school/other LA's to equally apply the school's over-subscription criteria (if appropriate) and provide the LA with a list of those applicants which should be offered a place.  Liaison will take place between VA's, foundation schools and other LA's until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.
By 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary.
By 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	Publish appeals timetable on the LA's website.
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	Letters posted (second class) and e-mails send (if applied on-line) to all parents resident in home LA area, to let them know which school has been allocated to their child.
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Admissions authorities to re-allocate any places that may have become vacant since the 1 <sup>st</sup> March offer date.
End May/June 2013	Appeal hearings arranged.

This scheme relates to the following schools in Hartlepool:

Dyke House Sports and Technology College  
The English Martyrs RC School & Sixth Form College  
High Tunstall College of Science  
Manor College of Technology  
St. Hild's Church of England VA School

## Appendix 3

### CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME PRIMARY SCHOOLS 2013/2014

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This scheme is made by Hartlepool Borough Council LA under the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act as amended by the 2002 Education Act.

The proposed scheme for Hartlepool LA is set out below. The proposed dates relating to the admissions process for the school year 2013/14 are attached at Annex 2.

A separate scheme exists in relation to secondary schools and in year admissions.

#### Interpretation

In this scheme -

"The LA" means Hartlepool Borough Council acting in its capacity as local authority.

"The LA area" means the area in respect of which the LA are the local authority.

"The school" means all community, voluntary controlled, and voluntary aided primary schools which are maintained by the LA.

"Admission Authority" means the LA in respect of any of the schools which is a community or voluntary controlled school, and the Governing Body of the school in respect of a Voluntary Aided School or an Academy.

"Parent" means the parent or guardian with whom the child normally lives.

"Suitable school" means the nearest available school which offers an efficient full-time programme of education appropriate to the individual child's needs in the view of the Authority.

The Co-ordinated Admission Scheme will apply for the admission arrangements for the school year commencing September 2013.

The LA will include in its admission arrangements for the 2013/2014 school year the provisions set out in this scheme.

The Governing Body of each Voluntary Aided School and Academy School will include in its admission arrangements for the 2013/14 school year the provisions set out in this scheme, so far as relevant to that school.

The scheme shall apply to every primary school in the LA area (except primary special school) and shall take effect from September, 2013.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In line with the requirements of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act as amended by the 2002 Education Act, this scheme has been drawn up by Hartlepool LA to co-ordinate admissions to its primary schools. It applies to all maintained primary schools in Hartlepool, except special schools, regardless of whether the LA or the governing body is the admissions authority.
- 1.2 The scheme's purpose is to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent living in Hartlepool whose child is due to start primary school and who has applied for a place in the normal admission round, receives an offer of one, and only one, school place on the offer day of 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013. It also sets out the arrangements for handling late applications.
- 1.3 The scheme will be implemented in accordance with the timetable set out in **Annex 2**.
- 1.4 **Annex 3** lists the primary schools to which the scheme applies.

## 2. Common Application Forms

- 2.1 There will be two forms known as the Common Application Forms (these are either on-line or paper). They will bear the references CAF/1 and CAF/2. CAF/1 will be used for Reception Year applications within the normal admissions round and CAF/2 will be used for all applications outside the normal admission round.

## 3. Applications for Reception on form CAF/1

- 3.1 CAF/1 will be used for the purpose of admitting pupils into the first year intake group, i.e. Reception, of primary education in September 2013. It must be used as a means of expressing one or more preferences for the purpose of section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, by parents resident in the Hartlepool LA area who wish to express a preference for their child:
  - to be admitted to a primary school within Hartlepool (including voluntary aided schools and academies);
  - to be admitted to a primary school located in another LA's area (including voluntary aided, academies and foundation schools).
- 3.2 The CAF/1 will:

- invite parents to express up to three preferences in rank order of preference including any schools outside the LA's area;
  - allow parents to explain the reasons for their preferences;
  - specify the closing date and where it must be returned;
  - allow parents to provide supplementary information in support of their application. The supplementary information form will be part of CAF/1.
- 3.3 The LA will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that CAF/1 forms are available to all parents with reception age children who will be attending primary schools in September 2013, in line with the timetable attached at **Annex 2**. An information booklet will be sent to parents advising of the benefits of making an on-line application. If a parent/carer would prefer to complete a CAF1 form, these will be available from the LA.
- 3.4 The admissions authority of a voluntary aided school or an academy can require parents who wish to express a preference for their school, to complete the supplementary information form attached to CAF/1. This information is necessary for the admissions authority to apply its over subscription criteria.
- 3.5 Where CAF/1 forms and any other supplementary information is sent directly to voluntary aided schools by mistake they must be passed to the LA immediately.

#### 4. **Closing Date for Return of CAF/1 and On-line Applications**

- 4.1 Completed CAF/1 forms must be returned by parents direct to the LA, or submitted on-line, by 23:59 on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Where a preference has been received for a voluntary aided school, the relevant supplementary information should be provided at the same time.
- 4.2 In relation to over-subscribed schools, preferences which are received or changed after the closing date but before the allocation date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, e.g. where a family has recently moved into the area and was therefore unable to submit the form by the closing date. Parents will be asked to provide information in support of their late application and the relevant admissions authorities reserves the right to seek verification of any information provided.
- 4.3 In the event that an application is received after the allocation process, the admission authorities will be unable to accept the application irrespective of exceptional circumstances. Such an application will be considered after all allocations of places where a parent has expressed a preference.

#### 5. **Determining Offers in Response to the CAF/1**

- 5.1 Places will be allocated using the Equal Ranking Scheme, by all admission authorities within Hartlepool.
- 5.2 The LA will act as a clearing house for the allocation of places by the relevant admission authorities in response to the CAF/1. The LA will only make any decision with respect to the offer or refusal of a place in response to any preference expressed on the CAF/1 where:
- an applicant is eligible for a place at more than one school, or
  - an applicant is not eligible for a place at any school for which they have expressed a preference.
- 5.3 Information on the ranking of applicants to voluntary aided schools must be returned by the relevant admissions authority to the LA in line with the dates specified in Annex 2, either electronically or by post.

## 6. Processing Parental Preferences

- 6.1 By 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 the LA will notify the admission authority for each of the schools of every application that has been made for that school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information which schools require to apply their over-subscription criteria. Where parents have requested a place at a school outside the LA area, the information will be forwarded to the relevant LA.
- 6.2 By 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – VA schools, academies and other LA's, inform LA of allocation of places for all preferences received in the priority order of their admission policy. All applications made need to be listed in order of priority.

The LA compares lists and considers all preferences from the parent and whether these schools can be offered. Liaison will take place between VA's, academies and other LA's until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required. The lists will be sent back to the VA schools and academies for their approval before finalising allocations.

- 6.3 Where a child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, the LA will allocate a place at the nearest school which has places.
- 6.4 By 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the LA will match ranked lists for all schools and:
- Where the child is eligible for a place at only one of the nominated schools, that school will be allocated to the child;
  - Where the child is eligible for a place at two or more of the nominated schools, they will be allocated a place at whichever of these is the highest ranked preference.
  - Where a child is not eligible for a place at any of the nominated schools, they will be offered a place at the nearest appropriate school with a vacancy.

- 6.5 On the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 the LA will post letters (second class) to all parents to let them know which school has been allocated to their child (if parents applied on-line, e-mails will be sent on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013). The letter will also tell parents of their statutory right of appeal if they have been refused a place at their preferred school.

Parents will be asked to return their appeal forms to the appropriate admissions authority or the local authority as appropriate.

Parents will also receive details on what to do if they wish their child to be considered for any places that might become available in schools they ranked higher than the school they are offered, in the reallocation process set out below.

- 6.6 By 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013, parents should inform the LA if the offer of a place is not accepted.

Where a parent does not confirm acceptance of a place by 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013, the LA will write to warn the parent that if they do not accept the place within 14 days, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

If the parent fails to reply to the letter from the LA within the 14 days deadline, the parent will be issued with another letter 7 days later. This letter will confirm that the place has been withdrawn and will offer a place at the nearest school to the pupil's home that still has a place available.

## 7. **Re-allocation of Places Not Taken Up**

- 7.1 From 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 the admission authority will re-allocate any places that may have become vacant since the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 offer date. Consideration will be given to all applicants including:

- those who have not been offered any school place, for example as a result of late applications;
- those who have been offered a place but not at any of the schools they expressed a preference for and a place has become available at one of their preferred schools; and
- those who have been offered a place at a school which was given as a lower priority on the CAF/1 than the school at which a place has become available.

- 7.2 Places will be re-allocated by applying the admission authority over-subscription criteria. During week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 the LA will liaise with the governing body for voluntary aided schools regarding outstanding applicants so that they can be ranked using the admission authority's over-subscription criteria.

## 8. **Waiting Lists**

- 8.1 After 22nd May 2013 the LA will not co-ordinate the waiting lists for places at voluntary aided schools. If parents wish for their child's name to be placed on the waiting list they should contact the school direct. If a parent subsequently wishes to make an application for a school, the parent should contact the LA for an application form. The LA will continue to co-ordinate the allocation of places.
- 8.2 A waiting list will be kept by the LA for the community schools and voluntary controlled schools within its jurisdiction. The LA will continue to operate a waiting list after the commencement of the academic year in September 2013. All parents will have the choice of including their child's name on this waiting list for any of the community or voluntary controlled schools irrespective of whether that school was included on the form CAF/1.
- 8.3 All waiting lists must be compiled in accordance with the relevant admission authorities admission criteria and places offered accordingly.

9. **Late Applications Received After 23:59 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

- 9.1 The closing date for applications is 23:59 pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013. As far as is reasonably practicable applications for places in the normal admission round that are received late and the LA is satisfied that the reasons for the lateness are exceptional, will be accepted provided that they are received before 29<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (the date the allocation process begins).
- 9.2 Except in exceptional circumstances, late applications will be considered after all allocation decisions have been made. As far as possible late applications received prior to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 will be offered a school place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013, but the closer to the 19<sup>th</sup> April deadline that an application is received, the less likely it will be that an offer will be made on that date.
- 9.3 Where it is not possible to offer a place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013, a place will be offered as soon as practicable thereafter.

10. **No CAF/1 Received by 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

- 10.1 Where no CAF/1 is submitted, the child will, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013, be offered a place at the nearest school to the child's home which has a place following the allocation process outlined above.

**ANNEX 2 (of Appendix 3)****TIMETABLE FOR PRIMARY CO-ORDINATED PRIMARY ADMISSIONS  
SCHEME**

w/c 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	CAF/1 forms and other information to parents.
23:59 pm on 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2013	Closing date for return of CAF/1 and online applications.
By 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	LA to notify other LAs of any preferences which have been expressed for schools in their area.
4 <sup>th</sup> February 2013	LA to send CAF/1 forms to voluntary aided schools of every preference which has been received for their school, including all relevant details and any supplementary information which schools require to apply their over-subscription criteria.
February/Beginning March 2013	All VA schools and academies set up admission committees to considered applications.
By 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	<p>The admissions authority at each voluntary aided school/other LA's to equally apply the school's over-subscription criteria (if appropriate) and provide the LA with a list of those applicants which should be offered a place. All applications needs to be ranked.</p> <p>Liaison will take place between VA's, academies and other LA's until the allocation of places is resolved for each application, as required.</p>
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Finalise allocations and further liaison as necessary.
16 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Letters posted (second class) to all parents resident in home LA area to let them know which school has been allocated to their child.
From 22nd May 2013	Admissions authorities to re-allocate any places that may have become vacant since the 19th April 2013 offer date.
June/Beginning July 2013	Appeal hearings arranged.



### **ANNEX 3 (of Appendix 2)**

This scheme relates to the following primary schools in Hartlepool:

Bamard Grove  
Brougham  
Clavering  
Eldon Grove  
Fens  
Golden Flatts  
Grange  
Greatham C of E  
Hart  
Holy Trinity  
Jesmond Gardens  
Kingsley  
Lynnfield  
Owton Manor  
Rift House  
Rossmere  
Sacred Heart RC  
St Aidans CE Memorial  
St Bega's RC  
St Cuthbert's RC  
St Helen's  
St John Vianney RC  
St Joseph's RC  
St Peters Elwick  
St Teresa's RC  
Stranton  
Throston  
Ward Jackson C of E  
West Park  
West View

## Appendix 4

### LOCAL CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEME ADMISSIONS OUTSIDE OF NORMAL TRANSFER ROUND (In-Year Admissions) 2013/2014

#### Applying for a school place outside of the normal transfer times

Parents with children of statutory school age who move into or within Hartlepool and require a school place outside of the normal transfer times must apply for a school place by completing an in-year application form (CAF2) available from the Local Authority (LA) Admissions Team.

If any parent approaches a school directly, the school must advise parents that they need to apply for a school place through the LA and for safeguarding purposes take details of the pupil(s) forwarding this to the LA. All applications (including children attending out of authority schools, private schools, etc.) will be dealt with by the School Admissions Team.

Applications for school places can only be considered up to 6 weeks prior to the date the place will be required (eg an application for a place at the beginning of May will be considered from mid-March at the earliest). Children **must** be resident within the country before an application can be considered. Service and Crown Personnel are exempt from the above.

#### Application

The application form allows parents to apply for any school (excluding independent schools) and to give reasons for their preferences. If schools receive direct applications for parents, the school **must** forward it to the local authority for co-ordination.

The application form will ask the parents for the following information:

- Details of the child for whom the application is being made (address, date of birth);
- Details about the person completing the application (name, address, relationship to child, contact details);
- Name of the child's current school;
- Express up to three preferences in rank order,
- Reasons for their preferences;
- Indicate if the child has a statement of special educational needs; and
- Indicate if the child is 'looked after' by a local authority.

Parents are required to return the completed paper application form to the School Admissions Team.

#### Applications for Community or Voluntary Controlled Schools

The Local Authority will ensure that all parents' preferences are logged on the CAPITA ONE admissions database within 5 school days of receipt of application.

If there are more applications than places available, the local authority will apply the oversubscription criteria.

If the LA is unable to meet any of the preferences requested by the parents, a place will be allocated at the school nearest to the child's home address that has a place available unless the child already has a school place within close proximity to their home address. In this case, no alternative offer will be made unless requested by the parent.

The LA **must** inform parents in writing of the outcome of their application. Please note that a child **must** be admitted to the school within 20 school days of receipt of the application by the relevant local authority.

### **Applications for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools**

The Local Authority will ensure that all parents' preferences are logged on the CAPITA ONE admissions database within 5 school days of receipt of application.

The LA will send details of all applications received, including any supplementary information, to the relevant voluntary aided and foundation schools within 5 school days of receipt if the school is shown as first preference, or when we are unable to offer a higher preference.

Voluntary aided and foundation school's admissions authorities **must** consider all applications without unnecessary delay. The school's admissions authority **must** admit the child if there is a space available (unless exempt under 3.32 of the School Admissions Code). If there are more applications than places available the school's admissions authority are required to apply their oversubscription criteria.

The admission authority should notify the LA its decision.

Parents who are refused admission must be offered a right of appeal. Information about the appeals process must be provided in the refusal letter and the LA will send a copy must be sent to the Voluntary Aided or Foundation School. The LA will then allocate a place at the school nearest to the child's home address that has a place available unless the child already has a school place within close proximity to their home address. In this case, no alternative offer will be made unless requested by the parent.

### **Children with Statements of Special Education Needs**

Children with a current Statement of Special Education Needs must be referred to their local Special Educational Needs (SEN) team. The SEN Team will work with the parents of the child to secure a place at a school where the specific needs of the child can be met. Where a child has a Statement of SEN naming a school, a place will be offered even if the year group is already full.

## **Managed Moves**

The managed moves scheme which is in operation in Hartlepool will continue. Any applications for casual admission will be dealt with in accordance with the above co-ordinated admission scheme unless it is deemed to fall under the criteria for a managed move.

This scheme relates to all Hartlepool Primary and Secondary Schools.

## Appendix 5

### Summary of Responses from Governors

#### Discussed at the Admissions Forum 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Thirty six responses were received, all from Hartlepool Schools.

- Most schools noted/supported the proposed over subscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools including the movement of sibling link to the second criteria.
- Most schools noted/supported the proposed admission limits.
- All schools noted/supported the primary and secondary co ordination schemes and the scheme for in year transfers.

General comments received:-

#### Brougham

The Headteacher in response to the admission criteria reported that a child that might attend the nursery for two years but don't get a place in the school above the admission zone.

#### Holy Trinity

The Headteacher went onto request that an exercise is undertaken in Seaton Carew to define the number of Primary School children residing in Seaton Carew and where they attend school. She went on to say that she had been asked to consider 100% more admission applications that could be accommodated and therefore would like the admission number reviewed and revised in line with community needs. She continued to report that she felt that children from Seaton Carew were penalized resulting in them having to attend schools outside the local area. She added that she was aware of proposals for a new housing development of 270 homes.

#### Ow ton Manor

A Governor referred to the possible impact of a change in the admission criteria which might mean that a child from another area might take priority of a child who lives in zone.

#### Rossmere

A Governor questioned whether a change in the admission criteria would disadvantage families with only one child living in zone.

### St Aidans

The Headteacher outlined to Governors his concerns in relation to the Partner Primary Schools system and that St Aidan's School is down to link with Dyke House Sports and Technology College in the admissions brochure which gives the impression that pupils will automatically go to Dyke House and in his opinion felt that this information is misleading adding that he would like to see the partner process reviewed.

Mr Taylor reported that two schools linked to Dyke House were also linked to another secondary school with Dyke House only liaised with two partner primary schools. He too agreed that it was wrong to publish this information.

### Dyke House

Mr. A. Jordon reported that on line applicants for school admissions did receive notification earlier than those who applied by the form.

He went on to report on the timing of open evenings when other secondary schools held their evening earlier to Dyke House College.

### High Tunstall

Governors noted that the tie-breaker proposed in the over-subscription criteria in 2012/13 'as the crow flies' was not the safest shortest route.

### Manor College

It was pointed out that primary partner schools is not addressed in the criteria although the college admission policy does indicate investment with primary partner schools

### Springwell

The Headteacher informed Governors that he had some concerns at the increasing numbers at Springwell but wanted to ensure that children get access to mainstream schools. He had raised this with Sue Beevers and also asked her to talk with Y6 children.

### St John Vianney

The Headteacher reported that he had for the first time had to attend an appeal in respect of an in year transfer request for the school. He added that there had been 150 transfer requests across the town since September 2011. He explained that more schools were dealing with an increase in requests for reception classes. This particular appeal centered on there being no places available in any of the admission zone schools. A discussion took place on siblings having priority above living in the admission zone and whilst there was support, the school would not agree to this above a Catholic child.

### **Ward Jackson**

It was noted that in 2012-13 the school will follow the LA admission arrangements with the introduction of their own admission policy in 2013-14.

### **Comments received in relation to admission numbers**

#### **Clavering**

It was noted that the school admission numbers for the 2013/14 academic year is to increase to 55 and the school is hoping to have this increased to 60.

#### **Lynnfield**

Do not accept the proposed admission limits as appended to the report.

#### **St Aidans**

Request that the proposed admission limits as appended to the report be reviewed in line with new housing developments.

#### **Dyke House**

Reaffirmed the requirement to reduce the admission limit of 190.

### **Comments received in relation to moving sibling link criteria**

#### **St Peters/Hart**

Governors agreed that both schools were part of the villages' communities and, therefore, to move sibling links above living within the admission zone would impact on a small village school and therefore felt that some caution should be given when considering this proposed change.

Governors were informed that neither of the schools was filled with children from the villages although numbers of children in the village communities were increasing in certain areas. Governors appreciated that St. Peter's Elwick was its own Admission Authority and, therefore, there was an added impact on the school in that the school had to pay for any admission appeals for admission to the school should they change their admission criteria.

It was reported by the Headteacher that there was the possibility of four children in Hart Primary with siblings who may not necessarily get a place at the school as they lived outside of the admission zone.

Governors went on to consider the issues faced in the town where families had children in more than one school. Governors felt that whilst there was capacity at present in the schools they would not wish to see any new families from the villages not having the chance to attend the schools in the future.

Governors confirmed that they were unable to support the proposed over subscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria as they felt that the schools will not be serving the local community.

The Governing Body felt such a move could be detrimental to the communities of Hart and Elwick particularly as the Governors had fought the proposed closure of St. Peter's School on the basis that they serve the community.

Furthermore they felt that Hart School was in a unique position and this did not appear to have been taken into consideration

#### Fens

Some discussion took place in respect of admission particularly around siblings. It was felt that parents should be discouraged from children changing schools, particularly mid year transfers, which compounds the problem of the admission of children particularly in Year 6. Governors felt it to be unfair to move siblings above living within the admission zone.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED  
not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.

#### Grange

The Headteacher informed Governors that the School was not over-subscribed at this present time, however, indications were that in 2012 the school might be oversubscribed which will require the admission criteria to be applied. Some debate took place in respect of the proposal to move sibling links above those living in the community and the possible impact and following a vote 10 voted to retain the current arrangements.

#### Rift House

Governors discussed the proposal to amend the admission criteria and expressed deep concerns in relation to sibling links being placed above admission zone children as they saw this as being very unfair particularly as the school is a community school.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED



Not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.

#### West Park

The question was asked should a child attend a school with a statement of SEN and the situation if a family wanted to move other children to the school would they take priority above those living in zone.

Governors had been circulated with a report drawing their attention to the draft admission arrangements for admission to schools in 2013/14 for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hartlepool and to the Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme and to seek views in respect of these.

Councillor Wells particularly expressed concerns with regards to the proposal to move sibling links above living in the admission zone as he could foresee problems should a child move to the school from out of zone at which a number of Governors felt to be unfair. Whilst supporting the view that children from the same family should be educated together this should not be to the detriment of children living in zone.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED

Not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

27 March 2012

### **Extract**

The meeting commenced at 10.35 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

#### **Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services  
Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development  
Danielle Swainston, Sure Start and Extended Services and Early Years Manager  
Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager  
James Sinclair, Youth Support Manager  
Graham Bryson, Integrated Youth support Service Planning Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **28. Admission Arrangements for Admissions to Schools 2013-14 and Co-ordinated Admissions to Primary and Secondary Schools and In-Year Transfers 2013-14 and Update on New School Admissions Code 2012** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

Key decision test (ii)

#### **Purpose of report**

To determine the admission policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2012/13 and the coordinated admissions procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2012/13 following consultation with governing bodies, other admissions authorities and the general public.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Head of Planning and Development reported on the main changes within the School Admissions Code that came into force on 1 February

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2012 as set out in the report.

In accordance with usual practice, the Council as admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools were required to consult on admission arrangements for these schools each year.

Submitted as an appendix to the report was a summary of the consultation responses received. The views expressed were considered by the Admissions Forum on 6 February 2012. The Forum discussed in detail the implications of moving sibling above admission zone and voted two for, four against with two abstentions. Following the forum meeting the issue was raised with the Primary Head teachers and, following much debate, a 'straw poll' of community and voluntary controlled heads was taken with 6 for and 9 against moving sibling above zone. Not every Head teacher from these sectors was present at the meeting. It was noted that the final decision on this matter would rest with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.

Revised admission limits had been discussed with schools on the basis of revised net capacity figures, and these were attached at Appendix 1.

The co-ordinated schemes for primary and secondary admissions and In Year Transfers agreed by the Admission Forum were also attached as appendices.

The Head of Planning and Development reported that on the basis of the consultation exercise, it was proposed that the admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools in 2013/14 be as follows:-

- Parents / carers be invited to express preferences for up to 3 primary schools in priority order and give reasons for their preferences.
- In the first instance, places would be awarded to those pupils with a statement of special educational needs where the school was named in the statement.
- The remaining places will be awarded in the following priority order:
  - 1) those children who are looked after children and previously looked after children (*previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order*);
  - 2) those children who have older brothers or sisters who will be attending the school in September 2013; (previously number 3)

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- 3) those children who live in the school's admission zone; (previously number 2)
- 4) those children who are distinguished from the great majority of other applicants whether on medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances and who would suffer significant hardship if they were unable to attend the school;
- 5) those children who live closest to the school as determined by the shortest suitable walking distance (*measured by the shortest suitable walking route from the (ordnance survey) address point of the child's home address to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system*).

It was reported that the Admissions Forum no longer had a statutory standing following the new codes. The Admissions Forum can continue as a voluntary arrangement if it was of benefit. The consensus view from schools and the existing Forum was that it was prudent to retain the Forum and it should be kept, as it was an effective arrangement for receiving updates on codes, general matters of interest, feedback, debate etc, and the members were able to report back to other head teachers as necessary.

**Decision**

- (i) That the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools which proposes to promote the sibling criteria above school admission zone criteria set out in paragraph 4.1.1 of the report be approved.
- (ii) The revised admission limits attached be agreed.
- (iii) The Primary and Secondary and In Year Transfers co-ordinated admissions schemes be approved.
- (iv) That changes to the new school admissions code which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 be noted.
- (v) The proposal that the Admissions Forum should continue to meet in an advisory form be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.40 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 2 APRIL 2012**

# Hartlepool Borough Council

## Overview and Scrutiny – Call-in Notice – Scrutiny Chairs



<b>1. Which decision would you like to call-in?</b> (Please include details of the decision, when it was taken and by whom)		
CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO - DECISION RECORD 27.3.12 28. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS 2013-14. PORTFOLIO HOLDER - Cllr CATH HILL		
<b>2. What are the reasons for calling-in this decision?</b> Call-in must only be used in exceptional circumstances and the justification for the call must be either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that the decision or proposed decision is outside the Budget and Policy Framework</li> <li>that the decision was not taken in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in Article 13 of the Constitution.</li> </ul>		
WE BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION WAS NOT TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING SET OUT IN ARTICLE 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION. i) PROPORTIONALITY & xii) REASONABLENESS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT TO BE PROPORTIONATE OR REASONABLE TO PUT CHILDREN WITH SIBLINGS ALREADY IN A SCHOOL AHEAD OF THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN WHO LIVE WITHIN THE SCHOOL'S ADMISSION ZONE.		
Councillor	Position and Party Group	Signature
1. MARJORIE JAMES.	SCC CHAIR - LABOUR	MA James.
2. STEPHEN AKERS-BELCHER	CHAIR HEATH LABOUR	
3. Cllr RAY WELLS	CONS. GROUP LEADER.	
<b>NB. Each of the Scrutiny Chairs may initiate call-ins providing they have the support of at least two members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. The three signatories must represent at least two of the Council's political groups.</b>		
Councillor: MA JAMES.		
Signed: MA James.		Date: 5.4.12.
<b>For office use only</b>		
Date received:	Initials:	SCC Agenda:

# **SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES**

13 April 2012

### **Extract**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

#### **Present:**

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Mick Fenwick, Sheila Griffin, Brenda Loynes, Ann Marshall, Arthur Preece, Linda Shields and Ray Wells.

Resident Representatives:

Evelyn Leck and John Maxwell

Also Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond  
Councillor Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder  
Children's Services Scrutiny Forum Young Representatives:  
Ashleigh Bostock and Robyn Reid

Officers:

Nicola Bailey, Acting Chief Executive  
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive  
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer  
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services  
Sally Robinson, Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services  
Sue Beevers, Admissions, School Place Planning and Support Services Manager  
Peter McIntosh, Head of Planning and Development  
Juliette Ward, Participation Worker  
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **274. Call-In of Decision: Admission Arrangements for Admissions to Schools 2013/14 and Co-ordinated Admissions to Primary and Secondary Schools and in year transfers 2013/14 and an update on new school admissions code 2012**

The Scrutiny Manager presented a report which provided Members with the relevant information relating to the Call-In of the decision taken by the Children's Services Portfolio Holder on 27 March 2012, in relation to the admissions policy for community and voluntary controlled primary schools in Hartlepool for the school year 2013/14 and the co-ordinated admission procedures to primary and secondary schools for 2013/14, as per the Authority's Call-In procedure. On considering the information contained within the Call-In notice, the Committee accepted the Call-In of this decision.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services was invited to address the Committee and indicated that the decision taken was based on the strong commitment of the Council to keep families together. Members were informed that the Portfolio Holder and Department had received a number of emails from parents with positive comments on the decision taken and the Portfolio Holder was not aware of any adverse comments being received.

A Member commented on the potential situation where children living within an admission zone would be unable to attend their local community school, as places within that school had been taken by siblings of children already attending the school who live outside the admission zone. Whilst the difficulties of children within the same family attending different schools was acknowledged, it was considered this was ultimately a consequence of a family moving out of the admission zone or applying for children to attend a school outside of the admission zone they lived in.

A discussion ensued on the right for parents to declare a preference for the school their children attended as opposed to a choice. There was concern that once a child was accepted into a school outside their admission zone, the parents then had a choice whether to place their siblings into the same school outside the admission zone or into the catchment school within the admission zone. The potential problems of having children who may live opposite a school they were unable to attend due to children who live outside the admission zone taking places at that school was also highlighted. This situation would result in two families travelling outside their admission zone to enable their children to attend school. A Member emphasised the need for local community schools to be accessible to the families living within that local community.

Whilst acknowledging that the majority of governing bodies accepted the proposed changes to the admission policy, it was considered that the full consequences of this decision were not made clear at the governors' meetings. Members believed that parents of children hoping for their child to attend the school within their admission zone would be disappointed with the decision once the full implications of the decision were known.

In addition, the potential difficulties to be faced when parents have children attending different schools was discussed, including start and finish times and parents attendance at events within the school such as harvest festivals.

Due to the town-wide impact of this decision, it was proposed that consideration of this issue be referred to Full Council to ensure a town-wide reflection from all Members. A Member suggested that the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all governing bodies should be invited to attend the Council meeting.

In response to a query from a Member in relation to the timetable for formulation of the revised policy, the Assistant Director, Prevention, Safeguarding and Specialist Services confirmed that consultation on the proposed changes to the admission policy was undertaken between September to December 2011. Upon the conclusion of this consultation, the previous Portfolio Holder for Children's Services requested a further round of consultation with primary school teachers. This subsequent extension to the timescale resulted in the submission of the report to the current Portfolio Holder for Children's Services being delayed until the 27 March 2012. It was noted that the formal deadline for submission of admission arrangements to the Secretary of State was 15 April 2012. However, it was acknowledged that whilst there may have been a delay in the decision making on this issue, the importance of seeking the views of all Members was emphasised. The Assistant Director confirmed that the Department for Education had noted that the Council was currently in dispute on this decision and highlighted the potential implications of this.

In view of the above it was suggested that the issue be referred to Full Council, at the earliest convenience, with the views of Members. The outcome of the discussions to be reported back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to inform the formulation of the formal Scrutiny response to the Call-in.

### **Recommended**

- (i) That the Call-in was accepted due to the decision not being taken in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in Article 13 of the Constitution in relation to (i) proportionality and (xii) reasonableness.
- (ii) That the decision be referred to Full Council, as soon as practicable, to enable a town-wide elected Member debate to be undertaken.
- (iii) The outcome of the Full Council meeting and views of Members be reported back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, as soon as practical, to inform the formulation of the formal Scrutiny response to the Call-in.

The meeting concluded at 4.23 pm



# EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL REPORT

14 June 2012



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** PROPOSED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS  
ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2013-14

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Following formal consultation the Director of Child and Adult Services recommended that the sibling link criteria is raised in the oversubscription criteria to appear above admission zone. The portfolio holder for Child and Adult Services on 27 March 2012 approved this recommendation along with

- The admission limits for 2013/14 be agreed.
- The primary, secondary and in year transfers co-ordinated admissions schemes be approved.
- That changes to the new school admissions code which came into force on 1 February 2012 be noted.
- The proposal that the Admissions Forum should continue to meet in an advisory form be noted.

However, the oversubscription criteria proposing to promote the sibling criteria above admission zone criteria part of the decision was then 'called-in' by the Council's Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 April 2012, and has now been referred to Council for further discussion before a decision in relation to the Call-in can be finalised. Thereafter, the outcome of discussions will be reported back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to assist in the formulation of a formal response to the Call-in, which will then be considered by the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Community Services.

1.2 There has been an invitation to all Hartlepool Headteachers and Chairs of Governors to attend this Extraordinary Council meeting.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The School Admissions Code ('the Code') has been issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 ('SSFA 1998'). The Code has been made following the consultation under Section 85(2) of the SSFA 1998 and after being laid before Parliament for forty days.
- 2.2 The Code came into force on 1 February 2012. It will apply to admission arrangements determined in 2012 for admission in school year 2013/14. The Code applies to admissions to all maintained schools in England. It should be read alongside the School Admission Appeals Code and other guidance and law that affect admissions and admission appeals in England.
- 2.3 The Code imposes mandatory requirements and includes guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions by the bodies listed below:
- a) **Admission authorities of maintained schools** as defined in Section 88(1) (a) and (b) of the SSFA 1998
  - b) **Governing bodies of local authorities (when not admission authorities)**
  - c) **Schools Adjudicators**
  - d) **Admission Appeal Panels.**

These bodies have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of the code. Hartlepool Borough Council is the Admissions Authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hartlepool.

- 2.4 Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 lays down the way in which an Admissions Authority must determine admission arrangements and requires them to consult with governing bodies and other admission authorities. The code has recently changed and a new code came into force on 1 February 2012 which applies to all maintained schools including foundation schools and academies. Admission Authorities must ensure that their determined admission arrangements comply with the mandatory provisions of the code. Failure to comply with these requirements would mean that Hartlepool Borough Council as Admission Authority for Hartlepool community and voluntary controlled schools will fail to meet its statutory duty.
- 2.5 In drawing up the admission arrangements, we should aim to ensure that:
- The arrangements enable parents/carers to express a preference as to the school at which he/she wishes education to be provided for his/her child and to give reasons for their preferences;
  - Admissions criteria are clear, fair and objective, for the benefit of all children, including those with special education needs, disabilities or in public care;
  - Local admission arrangements contribute to improving standards for all pupils;

- Local admission authorities consult each other and co-ordinate their arrangements, including the rapid re-integration wherever possible of children who have been excluded from other schools;
- Parents have easy access to helpful admissions information;
- Local admission arrangements achieve full compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance – including infant class sizes and equal opportunities – and take full account of the guidance in the Code.

2.6 A formal consultation on the school admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hartlepool for 2013/14 was undertaken between September and December 2011. This included an 8 week statutory consultation period from 1 November to 31 December 2011.

2.7 Of the 36 responses received during this formal consultation process, 30 respondents noted or supported a proposal to move the sibling link criteria above the admissions zone criterion. 6 respondents were against this move.

On the basis of the formal consultation the Director of Child and Adult Services recommended that the sibling criteria be raised in the oversubscription criteria to appear above admission zone. The portfolio holder for Child and Adult Services on 27 March 2012 approved this recommendation, however, this decision was then 'called-in' by the Council's Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and has now been referred to Council for discussion.

2.8 A summary of Responses from Governors were discussed at the Admissions Forum on 6 February 2012. At this time the Admissions Forum were acting in a purely advisory capacity as the new code (1 February 2012) removed the requirement to have admissions forums.

2.9 As indicated, thirty six responses were received, all from Hartlepool Schools, to the formal consultation. Most schools noted or supported the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools including the movement of sibling link to the second criteria.

2.10 One school reported that a child that might attend the nursery for two years but then not get a place in the school above those who live in the admission zone. This could be the case as nursery attendance does not form part of the oversubscription criteria at our schools.

2.11 A school referred to the possible impact of a change in the admission criteria which might mean that a child from another area might take priority over a child who lives in zone.

2.12 Another school questioned whether a change in the admission criteria would disadvantage families with only one child living in zone.

2.13 St Peter's/Hart Governors agreed that both schools were part of the villages' communities and therefore, to move sibling links above living within the

admission zone would impact on a small village school and felt that some caution should be given when considering this proposed change.

- 2.14 Governors at St Peter's/Hart were informed that neither of the schools were filled with children solely from the villages although numbers of children in the village communities were increasing in certain areas. Governors appreciated that St. Peter's Elwick was its own Admission Authority and, therefore, there was an added impact on the school in that the school had to pay for any admission appeals for admission to the school should they change their admission criteria.
- 2.15 It was reported by the Headteacher that there was the possibility of four children in Hart Primary with siblings who may not necessarily get a place at the school as they lived outside of the admission zone.
- 2.16 Governors at St Peter's/Hart went on to consider the issues faced in the town where families had children in more than one school. Governors felt that whilst there was capacity at present in the schools they would not wish to see any new families from the villages not having the chance to attend the schools in the future.
- 2.17 Governors at St Peter's/Hart confirmed that they were unable to support the proposed over subscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria as they felt that the schools will not be serving the local community.
- 2.18 The Governing Body felt such a move could be detrimental to the communities of Hart and Elwick particularly as the Governors had fought the proposed closure of St. Peter's School on the basis that they serve the community.
- 2.19 Furthermore they felt that Hart School was in a unique position and this did not appear to have been taken into consideration.
- 2.20 One school felt that parents should be discouraged from allowing children to change schools, particularly mid year transfers, which compounds the problem of the admission of children particularly in Year 6. Governors at this school felt it to be unfair to move siblings above living within the admission zone. The governors agreed not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.
- 2.21 One Headteacher informed Governors that their school was not over-subscribed at this present time, however, indications were that in 2012 the school might be oversubscribed which will require the admission criteria to be applied. Some debate took place in respect of the proposal to move sibling links above those living in the community and the possible impact. Following a vote, 10 voted to retain the current arrangements.

- 2.22 The governors discussed the proposal to amend the admission criteria and expressed deep concerns in relation to sibling links being placed above admission zone children as they saw this as being very unfair particularly as the school is a community school. Following consideration it was resolved not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.
- 2.23 A Councillor Governor expressed concerns with regards to the proposal to move sibling links above living in the admission zone as he could foresee problems should a child move to the school from out of zone and which a number of Governors felt to be unfair. Whilst supporting the view that children from the same family should be educated together this should not be to the detriment of children living in zone. Following consideration it was resolved not to support the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled primary schools including the movement of sibling links to the second criteria.
- 2.24 These consultation responses were considered by the Admissions Forum on 6 February 2012. The forum discussed in detail the implications of moving sibling link criteria above admission zone criteria and voted two for, four against with two abstentions. However the forum had no statutory powers at this time, as the new code (1 February 2012) removed the requirement to have Admissions Forums.
- 2.25 Following the Admissions Forum meeting and at the request of the portfolio holder the issue was raised with Primary Heads on 13 March 2012 and after much debate, a 'straw poll' of community and voluntary controlled heads was taken with 6 for and 9 against moving sibling link above admission zone criteria. Not every headteacher from these sectors was present at the meeting. This did not form part of the formal consultation process. It was noted that the final decision on this matter would rest with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services.
- 2.26 As Admissions Authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Hartlepool, the Local Authority has a responsibility to determine admissions arrangements for Hartlepool Schools and to present them to the Secretary of State on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012. We failed to do that this year in accordance with the statutory requirements, we did however make Department for Education (DfE) aware of this and the circumstances surrounding the decision making process.
- 2.27 In addition we must also publish our admissions arrangements on our website on 1<sup>st</sup> May each year. After taking legal advice, we did publish our proposed arrangements but with a note to draw attention to the fact that the arrangements have been 'called in' and the decision to move sibling criteria needed to be confirmed via due process.
- 2.28 Any persons aggrieved by the proposed arrangements can appeal to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 30 June 2012. In order to mitigate the

impact of the Council's failure to determine the admissions arrangements for Hartlepool Schools, a decision as far as practicable before 30 June 2012 is required. Not least to allow for some degree of certainty behind the Council's decision on this issue and to allow anyone aggrieved to lodge an appeal within the prescribed time frame.

### 3. PROPOSALS

3.1 We are proposing:

#### PROPOSED ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR 2013/14

It is proposed that the admissions policy for entry to community and voluntary controlled primary schools in 2013/14 is as follows:

Parents/carers are invited to express preferences for up to 3 primary schools in priority order and give reasons for their preferences.

- In the first instance, places will be awarded to those pupils with a statement of special educational needs where the school is named in the statement.
- The remaining places will be awarded in the following priority order:
  - 1) those children who are looked after children and previously looked after children (*previously looked after children are children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order*);
  - 2) **those children who have older brothers or sisters who will be attending the school in September 2013; (previously number 3)**
  - 3) **those children who live in the school's admission zone; (previously number 2)**
  - 4) those children who are distinguished from the great majority of other applicants whether on medical grounds or by other exceptional circumstances and who would suffer significant hardship if they were unable to attend the school;
  - 5) those children who live closest to the school as determined by the shortest suitable walking distance (*measured by the shortest suitable walking route from the (ordnance survey) address point of the child's home address to the main entrance of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system*).

3.2 There are pros and cons to each criteria, with some examples detailed below.

### 3.3 **Sibling Above in Zone**

- Helping the family unit to remain together.
- Poverty may be eased as family uniforms can be passed down/only one set of school photographs etc.
- Sports days / PD days / Assemblies and Christmas performances are the same for both children.
- Family already has links with the school because of older children so parents' evening etc is easier. Schools could have different policies which can sometimes be confusing for parents and children.
- Parents cannot be in two places at once and therefore, often feel they have no option but to change their older child(rens) school which can be disruptive to their education too.
- In many cases, the Local Authority cannot offer the older child a place at the same school as the one which the younger child was offered so an alternative school is sought for both children which can be at an even greater distance from home.
- The younger child can feel unsure as to why they cannot attend the same school as their older sibling. In cases where there are multiple children at the same school and the younger one is unsuccessful it can mean disrupting older children too – so it can affect more than one child when one place is refused.

### 3.4 **In Zone Above Sibling**

- Attending the zone school would help the community as a whole as children would be attending school close to home which can ease the social aspect of life ie friendship circles – playing together outside of school etc.
- There should be a reduction in congestion on the roads, as local people would walk (or bike) to school. Less reliance on cars for transport.
- In built-up areas attending the catchment area school may help disadvantaged families with regard to transport costs and getting the child to school on time – a number don't have cars and rely on public transport.
- Moving sibling above zone could mean that a child living close to the school may not gain a place whereas a child living miles away with a

sibling obviously could gain a place. This, however, would be a rare instance in Hartlepool.

### 3.5 **Summary**

By changing the order of the oversubscription criteria to promote the sibling criteria there will only be a small number of children, 1% in 2011 and 1% in 2012 affected. An admission zone child may not attend the nursery (neither may the sibling child) and have no links with the school whatsoever whereas the sibling child would have links via sibling and parents (even though they may not attend nursery) and therefore it could be that the sibling child would be at more of a disadvantage by not getting a place than the admission zone child (and indeed their families).

## 4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

For Council to debate the 'call in' reference and relay the outcome of discussions back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 22 June 2012.

## 5. **CONTACT OFFICER**

Peter McIntosh  
Head of Planning and Development  
Child and Adult Services

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