

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM
HELD ON MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2014 FROM 7.00PM TO 8.00PM**

Present:-

Local Education Authority Representatives:

Ian Pittock

Diocesan Representatives

David Babb (Chairman)

Parent Representatives:

Phiala Mehring

Schools Representatives

Elaine Stewart – *Aldryngton Primary School*

Hilary Winter – *The Piggott CE Aided Secondary School* (Vice Chairman)

Celia Thatcher – *Grazeley CE Aided Primary School*

Also present:-

Sue Riddick, School Admissions Lead Officer

Piers Brunning, Service, Manager, Children's Services Infrastructure Development

Tricia Harcourt, Senior Democratic Services Officer

11. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 2 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to following amendment in Minute 8; The last sentence before the Resolution should indicate that the increased Admission Number is for Year10 only.

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted from Beth Rowland.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Phiala Mehring declared an interest was part of the admissions committee for The Forest School.

Hilary Winter, declared an interest in Item 17 - Admission Arrangements for Voluntary Aided Schools and Academies on the grounds that she was Headteacher of The Piggott School.

14. SECONDARY STRATEGY - UPDATE

The Forum received and considered a report, set out on Agenda pages 7 to 9, giving an update on the further developments since the Council's Secondary Provision Strategy was adopted by the Executive in March 2013.

Piers Brunning presented his report indicating that the Strategy was being reviewed taking into account refreshed secondary projections and developments since it was prepared last year, as detailed in the report. There is an expectation that additional places for Year 7 pupils will be required by 2017/18 with a significant risk of a shortfall from 2015/16. Roll

projections are still uncertain as there are a number of factors beyond the Authority's control:

- Agreement to develop a free school/academy in east Reading as part of Maiden Erlegh ;
- A significant number of children from Bracknell Forest admitted to Wokingham Town Schools;
- A significant number of Wokingham children being admitted to Yateley School.

The projections take account of growth in the area generally, including migration into the area, with the development of the Strategic Development Locations leading to rapid increase in the rate of growth.

The key component in providing extra places is to create a new secondary school in the south of the Borough. Any school created by the Borough Council would be run as an Academy. Currently there is not sufficient Capital funding available, so additional funding would have to be sourced. The S106 funding from the new housing developments would be released in phases as the houses are occupied, so would not be available immediately. As happened with the new primary schools last year, the revenue start-up costs would have to be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant, which would affect all schools in the Borough by reducing the budget available to them.

The establishment of a parent/promoter led Free School would attract capital and initial revenue start-up funding from the Department for Education.

There is a proposal by a small group of parents, to open a new secondary school in the Arborfield area. Officers are working with this group, as the Council is keen to support a bid for a new secondary school that meets the objectives of the Strategy. However, there are concerns that the proposed site and buildings are not entirely suitable and would only be able to provide a four form entry school, which would not be able to support a viable 6th form; six forms of entry would be required for that. Also the site has poor road access, and there is no safe walking or cycling route.

Officers and Local Councillors have taken part in consultations with the community in Arborfield to understand what the community want, which have indicated that the school should be large enough and in a sustainable/accessible location to serve the areas to the south of the Borough as well as the new developments. A site within the Arborfield Garrison is considered best as it would be an accessible site linked to the new transport network which would be able to provide a school large enough to serve the existing settlements of Barkham, Finchampstead and Arborfield, as well as the new developments on the Garrison site.

RESOLVED: That the Secondary Strategy update report be noted.

15. REVIEW OF FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL – UPDATE

The Forum received and considered a report, set out on Agenda pages 10 to 17, giving an update on the progress made on the review of the Fair Access Protocol.

Sue Riddick presented her report and indicated that following the consultation with schools, the new Fair Access had now been adopted. The Secondary Fair Access Protocol Panel had already met and the process was now becoming part of normal working practice. There is more work to be done at Primary level.

RESOLVED: That the revised Fair Access Protocol documents be noted.

16. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES FOR 2015/16

The Forum received and considered the copies of the admission arrangements submitted by the following voluntary aided schools and academies:

- The Forest School
- The Holt School
- Maiden Erlegh School
- The Piggott School, including the Charvil Piggott Primary School
- St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School
- St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Sue Riddick mentioned that St Teresa's was now consulting on its arrangements, although there had been no changes. She then went through her comments on these arrangements that she would be passing on to the schools to ensure that their policies/arrangements were clear and complied with the mandatory requirements.

RESOLVED: That the comments made by the Local Authority on the admission arrangements submitted by voluntary aided schools and academies be noted.

17. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND FORWARD PROGRAMME

The dates for the next meeting and for planned meetings of the Forum for the next municipal year were noted as follows:

- 11 March 2014
- 24 June, 2 December 2014
- 10 February, 10 March 2015

Items for the 11 March meeting would include

- Consideration of the responses to the Authority's consultation on its admission arrangements for 2015/16

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the School Admissions Forum

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