

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Venue: Town Hall,
Moorgate Road,
Rotherham.

Date: Thursday, 16th November
2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6th July, 2006 (copy herewith). (Pages 1 - 3)
3. Matters Arising
4. Consultation on the Admission Arrangements for the Admission Year 2008/09 and on the 'Relevant Area' for consultation in 2009/10. (report herewith). (Pages 4 - 14)
5. DfES Consultation regarding the draft School Admissions Codes of Practice on Admissions and Appeals and associated Regulations (report herewith). (Pages 15 - 18)
6. Choice Advice (verbal report)
7. Report on Catchment Areas for Wales Primary/Kiveton Park Infant/Kiveton Park Meadows Junior Schools (report herewith). (Pages 19 - 21)
8. Admission to Primary School Booklet
9. Any Other Business
10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM**Thursday, 6th July, 2006**

Present:- Councillor St.John (in the Chair); Councillor Austen; Mr. B. N. Sampson (Church of England), Fellowes, Mrs. I. G. Hartley (School Governors), Mr. F. Hedge (Community Representative) and Mr. G. Lancashire (Junior and Infant Schools)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE- CHAIRMAN

Agreed:- That Councillor St. John be appointed Chairman of this Forum and that Mrs. I. G. Hartley be appointed as Vice-Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. G. Atkin, Mrs. P. Powell and Ms. C. Thorpe.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30TH MARCH, 2006

Agreed:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th March, 2006 be approved as a correct record.

4. ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION 2008 / 09

The Local Admissions Forum was informed that there would be no changes to the admission criteria for community and controlled schools in 2008/09. In addition, there would be no changes to the co-ordinated admission arrangements and how school places are offered.

The meeting was also informed of the “relevant area” situation and consultation process undertaken.

Agreed:- That the information be received.

5. CO-ORDINATED ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2006/07

The meeting was informed how the arrangements had progressed, the co-ordination process with other nearby local authorities having taken place very satisfactorily.

In Rotherham secondary schools, 97% of parents had been given their first preference of school whilst for primary schools, the figure was 99%.

Details were given of the situation in respect of oversubscribed schools.

Reference was also made to the on line application process which was already being well used by parents. The instant receipt/response mechanism was outlined. An example of the Online Admission Application

was submitted.

Agreed:- That the report be received.

6. ADMISSION BOOKLETS 2007/08

Copies of the secondary booklet were distributed at the meeting, it being sent to parents this month.

Members were informed that primary booklets would be sent out later, this was done in order to spread the workload.

Information was given on the number of extra district children coming in to Rotherham schools, with very few Rotherham children going the opposite way.

The ways in which the school admission process was publicised was outlined, such as posters in schools, nurseries and Children's Centres, the media and libraries.

The information was available in various languages.

Agreed:- That the information be received.

7. CHOICE ADVICE

The Guidance for Local Authorities, received from the DfES, on choice of schools was considered by members, the advice being targeted at parents who need the most help.

Choice Advice is about helping and supporting families including mothers, fathers, adults with caring responsibility and children to make the best and most realistic choice of secondary school. Choice Advisers will advise parents but not decide for them. Their aim is to help families optimise their choices using all the information to hand (including over-subscription criteria), plus use of local knowledge of what individual schools have to offer, to ensure parents are more likely to get the best place for their child. Where appropriate, this will include information about schools which might be in different local authority areas with additional advice covering local authority school-admission regimes and individual schools' admission-criteria.

The report submitted set out what Choice Advisers would need to know about the sources of information available to them for the role of Choice Advisers.

The report also included the aspects to be targeted by the Service and how it should be delivered. Possible models for delivery were set out in the report.

The report also gave information on :-

- the likely funding arrangements
- the training and accreditation of Choice Advisers

It was acknowledged that a concern which would have to be addressed was that possibly there would be fragmented advice being given and it would have to be ensured that this was well co-ordinated.

Agreed:- That the information be received and noted.

8. APPEALS PROCESS 2006/07

Information was given of the number of school admission appeals dealt with to date for 2006/07, which was very similar to the previous years' number.

The problem areas were referred to, along with the advice received from the DfES on the 30 limit legislation for infant schools, i.e. that the legislation should be firmly adhered to.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Admission Forum was scheduled for 10.00 a.m. on the following date:-

Thursday 16th November, 2006

**ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO GOVERNING BODIES – AUTUMN TERM 2006**

CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMISSION YEAR 2008/09 AND ON THE 'RELEVANT AREA' FOR CONSULTATION IN 2009/10.

i) **Admission Numbers and Admissions Criteria**

This item gives governors the opportunity to consider the admission arrangements (criteria and admission number), which will apply for admission in 2008/09. The Local Admission Forum has previously considered the requirements for consultation and has agreed that the LEA should facilitate this, as far as possible, by use of the Authority's Internet site.

The timetable for the year is:-

Autumn Term 2006	Governing bodies consider the arrangements which will apply.
By 12 th January 2007	All relevant details to be forwarded to the LEA.
18 th January – 1 st March 2007	Period of consultation via the LEA's website.
By end of March	LEA and the Local Admission Forum consider any changes and forward any comments to appropriate Admission Authority(ies).
By 15 th April 2007	All admission authorities to determine their arrangements and notify those consulted.

Community and Controlled Schools

For these schools, the LEA is the admission authority. The proposed admissions criteria for 2008/09 are shown at Appendix 1. There are no proposed changes to the criteria agreed for 2007/08.

Each school's proposed admission number is shown at appendix 2.

Action: The governing body should complete and return the pro-forma to Martin Harrop, 1st Floor, Norfolk House, as soon as possible and no later than **12th January 2007**.

Voluntary Aided Schools

The governing body is the admission authority.

Full consultation is required this year. In addition, Governing Bodies of Church of England schools should consult their Diocesan Board before consulting anyone else.

Action: Governing Bodies to consider both the admissions criteria and the admission number appropriate for the school. Full details of the admissions criteria and admissions number to be forwarded to the LEA by 12th January 2007 to enable the full consultation with all the appropriate consultees to be carried out via the Internet. This should be done by e-mail to martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk Pro-forma to be completed and returned as for community and controlled schools.

Further General Points

All admission numbers should now be set by reference to the indicated admission number (IAN) deriving from the net capacity calculation.

An admission number higher than the IAN can be set, subject to the necessary consultation, feedback and determination.

An admission number lower than the IAN can be set, subject to the above, but would also require the publication of a notice with provision for objection to the Adjudicator.

All infant, J&I, Primary schools need to continue to be mindful of the need to maintain classes from R to Y2 at 30 or less.

If you require any further information or would wish to discuss any matters relating to admission numbers/criteria/net capacity, please contact Martin Harrop on 01709 822415.

ii) **Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements**

Schemes for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for Primary and Secondary schools were agreed for 2007/08.

There are no proposed changes to the schemes for 2007/08, except for any necessary minor amendments to dates.

Action: Governing Bodies to note and to forward any comments, if any, on the pro-forma.

iii) **Consideration of the 'relevant area'**

Every two years, the Authority must review its determination of the 'relevant area' for the purposes of admissions consultation. This requires consultation with all schools in Rotherham, together with all primary schools lying within 1 mile of any border and all secondary schools lying within 3 miles. Since the inception of this requirement (in 1999) the determined area has been the whole of the Rotherham borough. There have been no objections to this and no change to the 'relevant area' is proposed for consultation on admissions in 2009/10.

Action: Governing Bodies to note and to forward any comments, if any, on the pro-forma.

Admission Criteria for community and controlled schools – 2008/09**Primary Reception**

Places will be allocated in the following order of priority:

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- iii) Those children who live outside the catchment area whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the preferred school or its associated junior school at the time of their admission.
- iv) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- v) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**. The kinds of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- vi) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Year 3

Places in Year 3 at a Junior School will be allocated in the following order of priority:-

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children in attendance at Y2 in the associated Infant School.
- iii) Children living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- iv) Children whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the school at the time of their admission.
- v) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- vi) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular school essential**.
- vii) Children who live nearest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (as the crow flies).

Secondary Year 7

Places will be allocated in the following order of priority:-

- i) Relevant looked after children (see note 2 below).
- ii) Children who, on the Allocated Date, are living in the catchment area of the school as defined by the Authority.
- iii) Those children who live outside the catchment area whose older brothers or sisters will be on the roll of the preferred school at the time of their admission.
- iv) Children who have a specific medical reason confirmed by a medical practitioner which the Authority is satisfied makes attendance **at that particular** school essential.
- v) Children with a compelling social reason which the Authority is satisfied make attendance **at that particular** school essential. The kind of overriding social reasons which could be accepted are where there is evidence that the pupil's education would be seriously impaired if he or she did not attend the preferred school.
- vi) Children who, on the allocation date, are on the roll of one of the associated Primary/Junior/Junior and Infant schools as identified by the Authority.
- vii) Children who, on the Allocated Date, live nearest to the school measured by a straight line on a horizontal plane, (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").

Notes

- 1 Where the admission number for any school is likely to be reached mid category, places will be prioritised within that category by reference to the distance between the home address and the school. Highest priority will be given to those living closest to the school measured in a straight line on a horizontal plane (commonly known as measurement, "as the crow flies").
2. A 'relevant looked after child' is a child that is looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application for admission to a school is made, and also the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time when he/she is admitted to the school.
3. Places will be allocated in accordance with the LEA's co-ordinated admissions schemes for Primary and Secondary schools. In assessing preferences, the LEA will operate an 'equal preference' system, which means that no priority will be given according to the ranking of the preference, except where a potential offer can be made in respect of more than one school. In that situation, the final offer of a place will be made at the highest ranked of the potential offer schools.
4. Children issued with a statement of Special Educational Needs will gain a place at the school named in the statement as part of that process.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2007/2008	Proposed Admission Number 2008/2009	Comments
Anston Brook Primary	253	36	40	40	
Anston Greenlands J&I	247	35	38	38	
Anston Hillcrest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Anston Park Infant	225	75	75	75	
Anston Park Junior	270	67	75	75	
Aston CE J&I	210	30	30		
Aston Fence J&I	140	20	20	20	
Aston Hall J&I	210	30	30	30	
Aston Lodge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aston Springwood Primary	210	30	30	30	
Aughton Primary	195	27	30	30	
Badsley Moor Infant	270	90	90	90	
Badsley Moor Junior	360	90	90	90	
Blackburn Primary	316	45	56	56	
Bramley Grange Primary	280	40	40	40	
Bramley Sunnyside Infant	240	80	80	80	
Bramley Sunnyside Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brampton Cortonwood Infant	120	40	40	40	
Brampton the Ellis CE Infant	120	40	40		
Brampton the Ellis CE Junior	269	67	70		
Brinsworth Howarth J&I	210	30	30	30	
Brinsworth Manor Infant	240	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Manor Junior	320	80	80	80	
Brinsworth Whitehill Primary	296	42	42	42	
Broom Valley Infant	179	59	60	60	
Broom Valley Junior	272	68	68	68	
Canklow Woods Primary	270	38	38	38	
Catcliffe Primary	170	24	25	25	
Coleridge Primary	210	30	30	30	
Dalton Foljambe J&I	141	20	30	30	
Dinnington Primary	305	43	43	43	
St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Dinnington)	196	28	28		
East Dene J&I	420/350	60/50	50	50	To reduce in line with new build capacity
Ferham Primary	210	30	30	30	
Flanderwell Primary	175	25	30	30	
Greasbrough J&I	308	44	50	50	
Harthill Primary	180	25	30	30	
Herringthorpe Infant	210	70	70	70	
Herringthorpe Junior	280	70	70	70	
High Greave Infant	180	60	60	60	
High Greave Junior	240	60	60	60	

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2007/2008	Proposed Admission Number 2008/2009	Comments
Kilnhurst Primary	168	28	28	28	
Kimberworth Primary	210	30	30	30	
Kiveton Park Infant	162	54	54	54/50	Possible reassessment of net capacity
Kiveton Park Meadows Junior	180	45	59	59	
Laughton CE Primary	105	15	15		
Laughton J&I	145	20	24	24	
Lilly Hall Junior	240	60	60	60	
Listerdale J&I	210	30	30	30	
Maltby Craggs Infant	210	70	70	70	
Maltby Craggs Junior	270	67	70	70	
Maltby Hall Infant	178	59	60	60	
Maltby Manor Infant	180	60	60	60	
Maltby Manor Junior	243	60	60	60	
Maltby Redwood J&I	315	45	45	45	
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Maltby)	210	30	30		
Meadowhall Primary	280	40	40	40	
Ravenfield Primary	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh Ashwood J&I	210	30	30	30	
Rawmarsh St Mary's CE Primary	131	18	18		
Rawmarsh Monkwood Infant	173	57	60	60	
Rawmarsh Monkwood Junior	243	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Rosehill Junior	240	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	209	29	30	30	
Rawmarsh St Joseph's Catholic Primary	196	28	30		
Rawmarsh Thorogate J&I	210	30	30	30	
Redscope J & I	420	60	60	60	
Rockingham J&I	329	47	56	56	
Roughwood Primary	392	56	56	56	
Sitwell Infant	228	76	76	76	
Sitwell Junior	300	75	76	76	
St Ann's J&I	420	60	60	60	
St Bede's Catholic Primary	280	40	40		
St Mary's Catholic Primary (Herr)	208	29	30		

School	Net Capacity	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2007/2008	Proposed Admission Number 2008/2009	Comments
St Thomas' CE Primary (Kiln)	180	25	30	30	
Swallownest Primary	210	30	30	30	
Swinton Brookfield Primary	322	46	50	50	
Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary	350	50	50	50	
Swinton Queen Primary	315	45	45	45	
Thornhill Primary	210	30	30	30	
Thorpe Hesley Infant	210	70	80	80	
Thorpe Hesley Junior	285	71	81	80	
Thrybergh Fullerton CE Primary	105	15	17		
Thrybergh Primary	261	37	37	37	
St Gerard's Catholic Primary	140	20	20		
Thurcroft Infant	180	60	60	60	
Thurcroft Junior	373	93	70	70	
Todwick J&I	210	30	30	30	
Treeton CE Primary	259	37	37		
Trinity Croft CE J&I	112	16	16		
Wales Primary	164	23	30	30	
Wath CE Primary	210	30	30		
Wath Central Primary	420	60	60	60	
Our Lady & St Joseph's Catholic Primary	175	25	30		
Wath Victoria J&I	270	38	40	40	
Wentworth CE J&I	104	14	16	16	
West Melton J&I	128	18	28	28	
Whiston J&I	210	30	30	30	
Whiston Worrygoose J&I	210	30	30	30	
Wickersley Northfield Primary	419	59	60	60	
St Alban's CE Primary	210	30	30		
Woodsetts J&I	205	29	30	30	

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School	Net Capacity Figure	Indicated Admission Number	Admission Number 2007/2008	Proposed Admission Number 2008/2009	Comments
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	1755	300	300	300	
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	1487	255	255	255	
Clifton Comprehensive	1433	286	250	250	To match new build capacity
Dinnington Comprehensive School	1444	252	252	252	
Maltby Comprehensive School	1638	290	290	290	
Oakwood Technology College	1050	210	210	210	
Rawmarsh School, A Sports College	1108	221	222	222	
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	1320	226	226	226	
Thrybergh Comprehensive	700	140	140	140	
Wales High School	1520	248	248	248	
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	1788	300	300	300	
Wickersley School and Sports College	1725	279	300	300	Net capacity should be 1850 in 2006
Wingfield Comprehensive	845	169	170	170	Net capacity should be 850 in 2006
Winterhill	1128 (before new build)	225	320	320	Net capacity should be 1600 following new build.
St Bernard's Catholic High, Specialist School for the Arts	664	132	132		New assessment pending
Pope Pius X Catholic High	650	130	130		

ADMISSION NUMBER FOR SIXTH FORMS

School Name	Admission Number for Y7-Y11	Proposed Admission Number for Y12 2008/09 *
Aston Comprehensive School, A Specialist School in Maths and Computing	300	45
Brinsworth Comprehensive School	255	38
Dinnington Comprehensive School	252	37
Maltby Comprehensive School	290	43
Swinton Community School, A Maths & Computing College	226	34
Wales High School	248	37
Wath Comprehensive A Language College	300	45
Wickersley Schools and Sports College	300	45

* This number is 15% of the admission number for Y7.

PRO- FORMA

ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION FOR 2008/09 ENTRY and RELEVANT AREA FOR THE 2009/10 CONSULTATION.

A) Community and Controlled Schools

1) There are no proposed changes to the LEA's current admissions criteria applicable to community and controlled schools shown at Appendix 1

Does the Governing Body -

Agree

Disagree

Further comments (if any):

2) The proposed Admission Number for 2008/09 is shown in Appendix 2.

Does the Governing Body -

Agree

Disagree

If disagree, the suggested admission number for the school is

Further comments:

B) Voluntary Aided Schools

1) There are no proposed changes to the current admission criteria.

or

Amendments will be made to the admissions criteria for the school admission year 2008/09

2) The proposed admission number for the school for 2008/09 is

C) All Schools

1) There are no proposed changes to the co-ordinated schemes applying to both Primary and Secondary schools, except for any necessary minor changes to dates.

Comments (if any):

2) It is proposed that the Relevant Area for admissions consultation purposes should continue to be the whole of the Borough.

Comments (if any):

NB Please complete this pro-forma and return to Martin Harrop by no later than **12th January 2007**.

All voluntary aided schools should forward their full proposed admissions criteria via e-mail to martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk by the same date, in order that appropriate consultation can be undertaken via the website.

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS
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1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services
2.	Date:	14th November 2006
3.	Title:	School Admissions Consultation 2006 (All Wards)
4.	Programme Area:	Children and Young People's Services

5. Summary: The DfES has published new draft codes in respect of School Admissions and Appeals, together with associated draft Regulations. Consultation on all of these is taking place up to 1st December, 2006. This report highlights some of the changes and some of the areas which will require comment in any reply to the consultation.

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- i) the report is received,
- ii) the report is forwarded to the Local Admissions Forum for information and comment and
- iii) that a suitable reply, based on the information highlighted, is forwarded to the DfES before the closing date for the consultation period.

7. Proposals and Details: The new codes will replace the current codes published in 2003. There are drafts for Admissions and also Appeals as well as draft regulations on various matters.

The aim is to have an admissions system that is 'fair and easy to understand and that promotes social equity'. Admission authorities will now have to 'act in accordance' with the codes rather than simply 'having regard to them'. The codes impose their own mandatory requirements as well as indicating the statutory requirements. All of these are shown in red as 'must' and 'must not'. Good and bad practice is indicated in blue with the words 'should' and 'should not'.

The main points to consider are probably:

Admissions Forums

Forums will have the power to produce a report on various admission matters including the social and ethnic mix of schools and whether that reflects the local area.

Draft Regulations suggest that all schools will become school members of the forum (even though schools are currently, and will still be, represented by 'core members'). The draft code seems to suggest that 'while all schools in an area will be members of their Forum, it will not be necessary for them to actively take part in all the work of the Forum and attend all its meetings'!

Choice Advice

Appendix 5 of the draft code provides guidelines on Choice Advice. The Government is introducing (and funding) a network of Choice Advisers who will 'target those parents who need the most help during the admissions round'. The independence of Choice Advisers is emphasised in that 'parents must have confidence in the advice they receive and will need to know that it is unaffected by any potential political or administrative considerations at play in the local authority or local schools'!

Co-ordinated Schemes

This is potentially the most contentious part of the code. It gives advice on 'first preference first co-ordinated schemes' and 'equal preference co-ordinated schemes'. Equal preference schemes are the suggested best model and first preference first schemes appear to be prohibited, unless all admission authorities agree to use first preference first and they all operate in an area that has no selection.

Rotherham currently operates a co-ordinated scheme which meets the provisions of the statutory requirements, but is not categorised as either a first preference first or an equal preference scheme. However, the admissions criteria applying to community and controlled schools do not make reference to the ranking of the preference, whereas for all aided schools, the admissions criteria make provision to give some priority according to ranking (i.e. first preference first). This appears to have worked well so far with no specific complaints from parents. Rather than clarifying things, the code seems to be confusing here. This is particularly so when in Appendix 3 (Statutory Requirement of Co-ordinated Admission schemes and model for admission cycle) under possible variants, paragraph 25 suggests that it is for each local authority to decide the scheme that best suits its residents and its schools as long as the scheme complies with the law and regulations and does not disadvantage those resident in other authorities. The schemes comply with the law, but appear not to comply with the draft code!

The Local Admissions Forum will have to give full consideration to this, particularly the diocesan representatives. If first preference first cannot be used as part of the admissions criteria, then every church school will have to look towards amending their criteria for 2008/09. Consultation is taking place on that up to 1st March 2007

and it is likely that the new code will come into force in February 2007 and apply to admissions for 2008/09. An alternative would be for all community and controlled schools to have 'first preference first' alongside church schools, but this would probably lead to more instances where it was not possible to meet any of a parents three preferred schools.

Other matters

There are some other areas of the code which appear to be poorly written and these should be pointed out to the DfES in any response e.g. page 69 para 17 on co-ordinated schemes suggests that 'the provisions of the scheme should be applied equally to applications for the local authority's schools from parents living in other local authorities'. There is, in fact, a full description of procedures for the handling of applications from parents resident in other areas within Rotherham's scheme, but the main provision of any secondary admissions scheme is to offer one place only to all those resident in the Authority! This cannot, therefore, apply equally to those living outside the authority.

There are other matters referred to in the admissions code which will emanate from the new Act. These include:

Publication

The Local Authority will have to publish a notice in a newspaper regarding the determination of all admission arrangements in order to allow for parental objection.

School Transport

There will be ramifications for school transport provision within the new 2006 Act, which extends the rights to have free home to school transport for pupils from 'low income families' to one of their 3 nearest schools where they are between 2 and 6 miles away for Secondary school admissions. There are different arrangements relating to Primary schools.

8. Finance: The codes and draft regulations will probably lead to only very minor increases in expenditure (e.g the requirement to publish a notice regarding determinations and, possibly, additional costs in respect of circulation of Admission Forum agendas).

The codes do, however, also highlight a number of things which will emanate from the new Act (e.g. additional travel costs for free transport etc), which will probably be subject to further consideration through relevant budget processes.

9. Risks and Uncertainties: A number of points will require comment and, hopefully, some clarification. Failure to act in accordance with the codes could lead to challenge in the courts. The new Act (currently the Education and Inspections Bill 2006) will place a statutory duty on school admissions authorities, local authorities,

admissions forums, school governing bodies, admissions appeals panels and adjudicators 'to act in accordance with' the new codes.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications: The aim of the government in revising the codes is to promote an admissions system that is 'fair and easy to understand and that promotes social equity.' It is not clear whether any enforced changes to Rotherham's current co-ordinated schemes brought about by the new draft codes would necessarily improve the position in those respects. Additionally, the performance indicator for the percentage of those successfully gaining a place at their first preferred school could, potentially, decrease.

11. Background Papers and Consultation: All of the new draft codes and regulations can be viewed on the DfES' consultation site:
www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations

**Contact Name :Martin Harrop, PO Forward Planning, ext 2415.
e-mail: martin.harrop@rotherham.gov.uk**

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT:****CATCHMENT AREAS: SCHOOLS - WALES PRIMARY AND
KIVETON PARK INF./KIVETON PARK MEADOWS JUN**

The Wales Primary School Governing Body has written to the Authority requesting a review of the catchment areas for the above-named schools. A map dating from the period of the previous review of the area, which took place in 1995, is attached. Areas of the more recent housing development in the area, from 2001 onwards, are indicated.

The drawn catchment areas have an area of overlap ('shared area'). Dwellings within the shared area are included in both catchment areas.

The governing body feels that the 'shared area' can be confusing for parents – there are no other instances of two community schools sharing an area in Rotherham. Additionally, the position was not clear on the authority's 'Mapkey' or Rotherham's web page 'The Knowledge', but changes have recently been made to these sites and both now reflect the current position. The governing body is also mindful of the extent of recent housing development in the area and its location.

A review of the catchment areas could throw up the following possibilities:

- 1) make no change,
- 2) combine all of the areas and make one whole 'shared area',
- 3) allocate all of the addresses within the 'shared area' to either Wales or the two Kiveton schools,
- 4) divide the 'shared area' and draw two conjoined catchment areas, or
- 5) draw two new conjoined catchment areas.

Background

As previously stated, the latest review of the area was conducted in 1995. The 'shared area' was already in existence and the decision at that time was to leave this unchanged.

The following fall within the 'shared area':

Beeches Road	Manor Road
Brooklands Farm	Old Quarry Avenue
Cedar Nook	Orchard Croft
Church Close	Poplar Nook
Forge Road	Rookery Close
Horseshoe Close	The Square
Horseshoe Gardens	Wales Road (small no. of
Lodge Hill Drive	properties)

The above contain 228 properties in total. This number of properties would be expected to produce around 6/7 pupils in an average year group (based on a planning formula of 3 pupils per year per 100 dwellings). At the time this report was compiled, the position at the schools was as follows:

	R(FS2)	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTALS
Kiveton Park	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	8
Wales	2	3	4	5	7	3	2	26
TOTALS	2	5	5	6	9	3	4	34

There was an average of around 5 pupils per year within the 'shared area', with the majority preferring to attend Wales Primary School.

Parental preference and relative size of the schools.

For admission to Reception (FS2), parents will make a preference for Kiveton Park Infant, Wales Primary or any other Infant/J & I/Primary school. There are currently places available at both schools to satisfy all parental preferences with the number on roll, average year group and admission number being:

SCHOOL	NOR	AVERAGE	ADM. No.
KIVETON PARK I	119	39.7	54
WALES PRIM	156	22.3	30

Interestingly, the average numbers on roll in each year group and the admission numbers are almost exactly the same proportion for each school (i.e 5:9).

Main points for consideration and next steps.

These can be summarised as follows:

- a) The Authority remains committed to the use of catchment areas within its admission criteria where any school is oversubscribed.
- b) Although there is a duty to keep catchment areas under review, it is recognised that they should not be subject to frequent change.
- c) Catchment area change should not be a mechanism for simply moving pupils from one school to another.
- d) Parental preference should be maximised as far as possible and all preferences will be satisfied where schools are not oversubscribed.
- e) The admissions process (including drawn catchment areas) should be clear rather than confusing.

Bearing all of the above in mind, the most appropriate action would probably be to adopt option 3, with the 'shared area' being allocated to Wales Primary School. This would:

- be a minor, rather than a major change
- put an end to any confusion arising from the use of a 'shared area'
- be mainly in line with the current trend of parental preference in the area.

Before making any final decision on this matter, however, the Authority will wish to seek the views of the schools' governing bodies and also local parents. It is recommended that this report is sent out, together with an appropriate pro-forma, in order to collect feedback. Details should also be forwarded to local ward members. A further report will then be prepared in order to consider the responses before a final decision is made.

Kiveton Park Infant
Meadows Junior
Catchment area

Shared
area

MAIN AREAS OF
HOUSING
SINCE 2001

Wales J.2.I.
Catchment 6

