

**LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM
2ND JULY, 2015**

Present:- Irene Hartley (in the Chair); Councillor Watson. and Mr. G. Lancashire (Community Representative) and Mr. M. T. Shahid.

Apologies for absence were received from:- Mrs. P. Powell (Community Representative), Ms. C. Thorpe (Diocese of Hallam) and Mrs. H. McLaughlin (Voluntary Aided Schools)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Watson to his first meeting of the Local Admissions Forum.

2. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH, 2015

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th March, 2015, were considered.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were not covered by this meeting's agenda.

Agreed:- That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

Discussion ensued on the membership of the Local Admissions Forum.

There were a number of vacancies, as previously reported at the 19th March meeting, for which efforts were still continuing to recruit to.

Councillor Watson reported that he would attempt to secure a further Elected Member representative.

Agreed: - (1) That work continue to fill the membership vacancies on Rotherham's Local Admission Forum.

(2) That a letter be sent to Mr. P. Robins conveying the Forum's best wishes and hope to see him at a future meeting.

4. TERMS, CONDITIONS AND CONSTITUTION

There was nothing to raise under this item.

5. THE LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT TO THE SCHOOL ADJUDICATOR

Consideration was given to Rotherham's Local Authority Report to the Schools Adjudicator, 30th June, 2015, which was presented by the Principal Officer, School Organisation. Completion and return of the report annually was a statutory requirement on admissions authorities.

Agreed: - That the item be noted.

6. ACADEMIES UPDATE

The Principal Officer, School Organisation, presented the latest position regarding schools which either had or would shortly have converted to Academies.

It was noted that originally Sandhill Primary Academy was the lead sponsor for Swinton Brookfield but it was now going to be Wakefield City Academy as from September, 2015.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

7. SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS UPDATE

It was noted that a full breakdown of the 2014/15 figures would be submitted to the next meeting.

A training day had been held for both new and existing Appeal Panel members on 27th April. The training had included logistics, process, legislative updates and issues surrounding education appeals and some case studies. The feedback received had been very positive.

Grouped appeals had been held this year for Wath, Wickersley, St. Bernard's and St. Pius X Schools.

Appeals were to take place up to the end of the Summer term for the Reception/FS2 applications and the large number of in-year transfers/late applications.

Agreed:- That the update be noted.

8. FAIR ACCESS PROTOCOL UPDATE

Marina Jordan, Principal Officer, Appeals and Fair Access, reported that the Fair Access Panel met and used the Protocol which ensured that children were offered a school place quickly if they did not have one whilst also making sure that the statutory processes were followed first.

Primary and secondary school panels were scheduled to meet every half term but were not always necessary if there were no children out of school meeting the Fair Access Protocol criteria. Quite often a telephone call to

schools asking if they were willing to admit a child under the Fair Access Protocol would result in an offer being made.

Representatives from the Pupil Referral Units were members of the Panel. The Panel was also kept informed by colleagues regarding Managed Moves.

The new Eastwood Village School would help alleviate some of the pressures for primary school places. The School would be taking children from Reception to the end of Y4, 30 children per year group in the first year.

Agreed:- That the report be noted.

9. SCHOOL ORGANISATION UPDATE

Chris Stones, Principal Officer, School Organisation, gave the following update:-

- Eastwood Village Primary School – as reported previously the new School would open in September for Reception/FS2-Y4. Approximately 47 places had been allocated across the year groups
- Wickersley Comprehensive School – the new block of 17 classrooms was due for completion for September, 2015, which was mainly to accommodate Years 7 to 11 and the 6th form students. An increased admission number of 320 would be phased through the school on an annual basis
- Rawmarsh – there was a high birth rate in the area for 2016/17. It had been proposed to have 2 bulge classes at Thorogate and Sandhill Primary Schools with an increased admission number of 45. However, Thorogate had declined and would remain at 30. The children would be accommodated at Sandhill as a ‘one off’ bulge cohort
- Kilnhurst Resource Centre – as from October would become part of Milton Special School

10. DATE AND TIME OF LOCAL ADMISSION FORUM MEETINGS IN 2015/2016: -

Agreed:- That meetings of the Local Admissions Forum be held in 2015/16 as follows:-

Thursday, 5th November, 2105
 17th March, 2016 (*to be rescheduled to February 2016*)
 7th July

all to commence at 10.00 a.m. in the Rotherham Town Hall.