

CABINET MEETING – 18 APRIL 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Revision to School Admission Arrangements - September 2012

Author(s):

Executive Director Children's Services

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to changes to specific PANs for September 2012, previously agreed by Cabinet at their meeting of 11 March 2011 and for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City, be given delegated authority to determine any further exceptional changes to PANs if this is necessary. This is to relieve pressure on reception places due to oversubscription in particular schools in the Washington and South areas of the City.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to approve:

- i the revised PANs set out at 4.1 of this report;
- ii the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City, be given delegated authority to determine any further exceptional changes to PANs if this is necessary.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

Cabinet approval of the proposed changes will address the currently identified pressures in the Washington and South areas of the City.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The alternative is not to approve the proposed changes to PANs, which would not address the pressure on places.

Impacts analysed:

Equality ☐ Privacy ☐ Sustainability ☐ Crime and Disorder ☐

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?

Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

Yes

Relevant Review Committee:

Children, Young People and Learning

REVISION TO SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2012

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to changes to specific Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for September 2012, previously agreed by Cabinet at their meeting of 9 March 2011 and for the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City, be given delegated authority to determine any further exceptional changes to PANs if this is necessary. This is to relieve pressure on reception places due to oversubscription in particular schools in the Washington and South areas of the City.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DECISION

Cabinet is recommended to approve:

- i. the revised PANs set out at 4.1 of this report;
- ii. the Executive Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City be given delegated authority to determine any further exceptional changes to PANs if this is necessary.

3. BACKGROUND

Cabinet agreed recommendations to approve admission arrangements for September 2013 at its meeting on 14th March 2012. Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of that report also informed Members that a programme of meetings had taken place with headteachers and chairs of governors in each ward area of Washington and in the South area of the City, to explore solutions to accommodate a projected shortfall in places for September 2012. This report provides an update on that position and solutions to the issues identified.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The following changes to PANs for September 2012 are proposed, subject to governing body agreement for each school:

Washington area:

School	Approved PAN	Revised PAN
Biddick Primary	30	50
George Washington Primary	60	70

South area:

Highfield Primary	45	60
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- 4.2 The above changes will help to address the currently identified pressures in these two areas. As the admission round progresses late preferences and changes in preference also impact upon schools ability to offer places and so consideration is also being given to additional places in Washington at Lambton, Oxclose or Holley Park Primary Schools, all of which have indicated they are willing to take additional pupils in September, should there be the demand. An assessment will take account of oversubscription, any building works that may need to be carried out to accommodate the additional numbers and the location of each school within the area to determine the most appropriate school or schools to meet demand. South Hylton Primary School has also offered additional places to meet demand should there be insufficient places available in the west area. This will be kept under review, pending the progress and impact of Grindon Hall Free School on admissions in the area (paragraph 4.6 sets out a brief update of the position) and the impact of admissions at Academy 360, where governors are currently consulting on increasing their PAN from 45 to 60 to reflect a trend of oversubscription and successful appeals.
- 4.3 Given the emerging position described in 4.2, Cabinet is asked to approve that the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning City be given delegated authority to agree any further exceptional PAN changes for September 2012 should this be necessary.
- 4.4 Members are aware of the impending opening of Grindon Hall Free School in September 2012. However, the school has not yet had the Funding Agreement finalised and has therefore been informed by Department for Education (DfE) that they cannot offer places for Reception or Year 7 at this stage. This will have an impact on admissions generally in that where first preferences have been received for Grindon Hall these will not be able to be progressed immediately therefore second or third preferences for Sunderland Schools will be offered where possible. When Grindon Hall is in a position to offer places this will impact on maintained schools if parents then choose to reject an offer previously made for a maintained school in favour of a place at Grindon Hall.

5. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 Cabinet approval of the proposed changes will address the currently identified pressures in the Washington and South areas of the City.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The alternative is not to approve the proposed changes to PANs, which would not address the pressure on places.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Increases to Public Admission Numbers are an executive decision of Cabinet. This report seeks delegated authority where appropriate, as outlined in the recommendation at 2.ii.
- 7.2 Should the increased PANs be agreed, places will be allocated up to the revised PANs and, unless there is oversubscription above the revised PAN, there will be no necessity for parents to go through the appeal process

8. RELEVANT CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation took place with Headteachers and Chairs of Governing Bodies of the relevant schools and with Ward Members.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Cabinet report of 14th March 2012.

