

Committee:	Lead Member for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs and Disability
Date:	19 February 2018
Title of Report:	Admission arrangements for the 2019/20 school year
By:	Director of Children's Services
Purpose of Report:	To determine the final school admission arrangements for the 2019/20 school year

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) agree the proposed admission arrangements for the 2019/20 school year, including the following changes to the existing arrangements:**
 - I. To make a change to the community area for Hankham and Stone Cross primary schools so that the current discrete areas are merged to form one shared community area;**
 - II. to include the community area formerly served by Rodmell CE Primary School in the community area for Iford & Kingston CE Primary School following the agreed closure of Rodmell CE Primary School**
 - III. to include the villages of Ditchling and Streat in Chailey Secondary School's community area to create a shared area with Priory School**
 - 2) Agree the admission priorities as set out in Appendix 1.**
 - 3) Agree the proposed admissions numbers as set out in Appendix 4, in particular the following changes:**
 - I. Proposed increase in PAN at Polegate School;**
 - II. Proposed increase in PAN at Ditchling St Margaret's CE Primary School;**
 - III. Proposed decrease in PAN at Forest Row CE Primary;**
 - IV. Proposed decrease in PAN at Uplands Community College; and**
 - V. Defer decision on PAN at Ninfield CE Primary pending consultation.**
 - 4) Agree the proposed co-ordinated admissions schemes as set out in Appendix 7.**
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1. Background Information

1.1 The School Admissions Code 2014 states that admissions authorities must determine their admissions arrangements annually. However, provided the relevant admissions authority is not proposing any changes to their admissions arrangements, there is a duty to consult every seven years.

1.2 Consultation on the proposed admission arrangements as outlined in Appendix 1 was carried out between 13 November 2017 and 26 January 2018. This satisfied the duty to consult for at least six weeks and end the consultation period by 31 January 2018. 41 responses were received during this period and the results are outlined in Appendix 3. An addendum was added to the consultation on 15 December 2017 in respect of increasing the PAN of Robertsbridge Community College, at the request of the governors. 30 responses were received in respect of this and these are outlined separately in Appendix 5.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The community area change proposal in respect of Hankham and Stone Cross should help ensure that children are able to attend their nearest local school. A number of homes have been/are being built in the area between the two schools, straddling the community area boundary, and many of these homes are in the area for Hankham, which is

a much smaller school with a PAN of 20. Meanwhile, many of the places at Stone Cross (which has a PAN of 60) are occupied by children living within Eastbourne Borough, where there are numerous other schools available. However, some of these children are geographically closer to Stone Cross primary school than those in the new homes, and under current arrangements would therefore be more likely to be offered places at Stone Cross, despite having more local alternatives.

3. The proposed Changes

Hankham and Stone Cross community areas (primary)

3.1 The Lead Member is asked to merge the community areas for Hankham and Stone Cross primary schools, giving children living in the area priority for both schools. This would create a shared area served by both schools, as shown on the attached maps. The Lead Member is advised that the responses to the consultation in respect of this were overwhelmingly in favour of this change, with 38 in favour (92.7%) and 3 against (7.3%). A summary of consultation responses in respect of this change can be found in Appendix 3a.

Rodmell and Iford and Kingston Community areas (primary)

3.2 Following the closure of Rodmell CE Primary School, the Lead Member is asked to extend the community area for Iford and Kingston CE Primary School to include the community area previously served by Rodmell CE Primary School. The Lead Member is advised that capacity at Iford & Kingston CE School has been increased from a PAN of 20 to a PAN of 30 and the County Council's forecasts show that the school has the capacity to accommodate these children, who are few in number. The Lead Member is further advised that an in year variation was agreed by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to apply this change to admissions in September 2018. Consultation responses were strongly in favour of this change with 35 in favour (85.4%) and 6 against (14.6%). A summary of consultation responses in respect of this change can be found in Appendix 3b.

Community area for Chailey School (secondary)

3.3 The Lead Member is asked to include the villages of Ditchling and Streat in the area for Chailey School. These villages currently fall within the community area served by Priory School but are geographically closer to Chailey. Ditchling also falls within the community area served by Downlands Community College in Hassocks, West Sussex. The Lead Member is advised that currently very few pupils from these areas attend Priory School as it is inconvenient for public transport. A map is attached to show the affected area. Consultation responses were again strongly in favour of the change with 35 in favour (85.4%) and 6 against (14.6%). A summary of consultation responses in respect of this change can be found in Appendix 3c.

3.4 Appendix 4 shows the proposed admissions numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2019/20 school year. For ease of reference, the proposed admission numbers (as far as they are known to the County Council) are included in italics. The Lead Member is asked to note that this is for information only and subject to change.

- 3.5 With reference to Appendix 4, attention is drawn to the following proposals:
- to increase the PAN of Polegate School from 60 to 90 (subject to necessary planning consent);
 - to increase the PAN of Ditchling St Margaret's CE School from 20 to 24; and
 - to reduce the PANs of Forest Row Community Primary School and Uplands Community College from 45 to 30 and from 168 to 150 respectively.

Only ten responses to the consultation commented on the changes to the PANs. Of these all but two were supportive of the proposed changes.

3.6 The proposed PAN for Robertsbridge Community College is highlighted in Appendix 4. This follows a request received from the governors of the school to increase the PAN of

the college to 145 (from 130). This was an addendum to the consultation which was added on 15 December and information in respect of this is attached as Appendix 5. The Lead Member is advised that the consultation responses were broadly against this proposal, with 11 in favour (36.7%), 16 against (53.3%) and 3 unable to give a firm opinion or having mixed views (10%). The Lead Member is also advised that the view of the Director of Children's Services is that this change is unnecessary as the current PAN gives sufficient capacity for in area children, and raising it could lead to PAN reductions in other areas and increased spend on Home to School Transport. More detail is set out in Appendix 5.

3.7 The Lead Member is also asked to note that although the PAN for Ninfield CE Primary School has been consulted on at 20 as previously, this will not be sustainable in light of recent events set out in Appendix 6. The Lead Member is therefore asked to defer a decision on the PAN for Ninfield CE Primary School pending a consultation on the proposal to reduce the PAN to 15 with effect from September 2019.

3.8 Appendix 7 outlines the co-ordinated admission schemes for the 'normal' years of entry, i.e. reception classes, transfer between infant to junior schools and on transfer between primary and secondary school

3.9 The Lead Member is advised that an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as part of the consultation process, and is attached as Appendix 8.

4. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations

4.1 The county council is required by law to carry out consultation on admission arrangements every seven years, or sooner if there are any changes to those arrangements for the schools where the local authority is the admission authority. The Lead Member is recommended to determine the attached admission arrangements for 2019/20 including the following changes to the existing policy. These are:

- 1. To make a change to the community area for Hankham and Stone Cross primary schools so that the current discrete areas are merged to form one shared community area;**
- 2. to include the community area formerly served by Rodmell CE Primary School in the community area for Iford & Kingston CE Primary School following the agreed closure of Rodmell CE Primary School**
- 3. to include the villages of Ditchling and Streat in Chailey Secondary School's community area to create a shared area with Priory School**

4.2 The Lead Member is also recommended to agree the PANs for community and controlled schools as set out in Appendix 4, including the proposed changes as set out above, but to defer the decision on the PAN for Ninfield Primary School until the Lead Member meeting scheduled for 29 March 2018. This will allow for a public consultation on the proposed reduction of the PAN necessitated by the reduction in the number of available classrooms at the school as set out in Appendix 6.

4.3 The determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools will be published on the East Sussex County Council website by 15 March 2018 as required under current legislation (with the exception of the PAN for Ninfield as set out above). Any objections to these arrangements can then be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator until 15 May 2018. The final arrangements will be published in the composite prospectus online (and available in hard copy on demand) by 12 September 2018 as required by the School Admissions Code 2014.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents:

- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The School Admissions (Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
- The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2014
- The School Information (England) Regulations 2012
- School Admissions Code 2014

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Admissions criteria

Appendix 2- maps showing the areas in question: 2a) and b) show the Hankham/Stone Cross proposal, and map 2c) shows the proposed shared area between Chailey School and Priory School

Appendix 3- Consultation responses

Appendix 4- Admission numbers

Appendix 5- Robertsbridge Community College (including consultation responses in respect of this)

Appendix 6 - Ninfield CE Primary School

Appendix 7 - Co-ordination Admission Schemes – normal year of entry

Appendix 8 – Equalities Impact Assessment