

Subject:	Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2019/20		
Date of Meeting:	Children, Young People & Skills Committee 18 September 2017		
Report of:	Executive Director Families, Children & Learning		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1. The City Council is the admission authority for maintained community schools in the city. The admission arrangements for schools must be determined 18 months in advance of the academic year in which they will take effect. This report outlines the proposed changes to the secondary school catchment areas and some primary school Published Admission Numbers (PAN) that will take effect for admissions to school in September 2019. It also seeks permission to make a light touch temporary change to the secondary school admission arrangements.
- 1.2. Local Authorities must also set out schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and also the arrangements for consultation with own admission authority schools in the city and with other Local Authorities. They also establish the area (the "relevant area") within which the admission consultation should take place.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee agree to consult upon the light touch temporary review of the secondary school catchment areas to take effect from 2019.
- 2.2 That the Committee agree to recommend to Full Council that any change to secondary school catchment areas remain in effect for two years and that there should be a further review in 2019 to look at admission arrangements from 2021 onwards.
- 2.3 That the Committee agree to the proposed schedule of public consultation events as detailed in the report.
- 2.4 That the Committee note the forecast of pupil numbers in each catchment area as noted in the report.

- 2.5 That the Committee agree to consult upon the proposed revised primary school Published Admission Numbers (PAN) to take effect from September 2019.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The city's secondary school catchment areas have often been the subject of review as the Council seeks to ensure the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.
- 3.2 The Cross Party School Organisation Working Group (CPSOWG) is long established and undertakes work to scrutinise the existing arrangements and review possible alternatives, making recommendations to the Children, Young People and Skills Committee (CYP&S). The group's membership is shown in Appendix 12.
- 3.3 The CPSOWG convened a Secondary Admissions Working Party (SAWP) whose membership is also shown in Appendix 12. Headteachers from Hove Park, Longhill High, Blatchington Mill, Dorothy Stringer, and Varndean schools have all taken up the opportunity to attend these meetings at times.
- 3.4 The city has seen an increase in the number of secondary school pupils and this is set to continue. The council is currently working in partnership with the University of Brighton Academies Trust (UoBAT) to open a new free school to help overcome this increase in numbers. Recently there have been a number of pupils who have not been allocated a place at their catchment school.
- 3.5 To help mitigate this situation occurring in the future, the council intends to consult upon a light touch temporary review of the catchment areas of secondary schools in the city, to take effect from September 2019. It is intended that any changes would remain in effect for two years and that there would be a further review in 2019 to look at arrangements from 2021 onwards. It is intended that the proposed changes for 2019 -21 will better match the number of pupils living in a catchment area with the places available at the relevant catchment school(s) thus providing an increased likelihood for families that they will be offered a place at a catchment school. It is hoped that this will reduce the uncertainty that some parents have experienced in recent years as the number of applicants in particular catchment areas has exceeded the places available at the catchment school.
- 3.6 Whilst the current published admission arrangements for secondary schools are considered to be clear and state that parents are not guaranteed a place at their catchment school the proposed changes to catchment areas, subject to public consultation, will offer parents whose children are due to start secondary school in September 2019 greater clarity.
- 3.7 The rise in primary aged pupils in the city is now beginning to impact on secondary schools. In order to ensure that the council is able to meet its statutory responsibility in future years to have a school place available for all pupils who require one, the council has worked closely with partners locally and in particular the UoBAT to secure agreement for the opening of a new secondary school, The Brighton and Hove Academy. The Council does not have the power to open a new school itself.

- 3.8 In the spring of 2016, in anticipation of the need to incorporate the new school into the city's admission arrangements, the Council undertook an extensive public engagement exercise on possible changes to the city's school admission arrangements for secondary schools. This included a review of existing catchment areas.
- 3.9 The outcome of the engagement phase was reported to the CYP&S committee in September 2016. The principles that received the greatest support from respondents were:
- Minimise pupil's journeys to school
 - Ensure all the city's schools are successful and viable
 - Allow children to move to a secondary school with their school friends
- 3.10 The proposal to introduce a Free School Meal (FSM) criterion was disagreed with by 63% of the respondents. It did receive support from those who were teachers or governors in Brighton and Hove schools.
- 3.11 Of the three catchment area maps put forward to prompt discussion at the engagement events two maps received significant support as respondents' first preference.
- 3.12 The tie-break option that received most support was for the use of a distance measure i.e. to prioritise pupils who live closest to the school. It was clear from the replies given that this response rate was linked to the proposed options being put forward for the catchment areas. It was not considered as a separate matter by many respondents.
- 3.13 There was no city wide consistency in the responses to the proposals put forward to the engagement phase and there were geographical differences in which proposals were preferred. As a result, the CPSOWG was not able to draw upon a consistent theme for the development of a single proposal.
- 3.14 The CPSOWG concluded that the new school should be located in a catchment area with Dorothy Stringer and Varndean Schools. It was intended that this would address the need for additional places in this area. They also proposed that the Coldean area of the city should move from being in the catchment area for Patcham High School to Brighton Aldridge Community Academy's (BACA) catchment area, thus providing a more equitable distribution of pupil numbers in future years.
- 3.15 The CPSOWG did not propose any further changes to existing catchment areas. This was in response to concerns raised during the engagement phase which included the length of safe pupil journeys, the focus on schools being successful and viable and maintaining strong local communities.
- 3.16 The working party proposed that an oversubscription criteria be introduced which would give priority for pupils in receipt of FSM, to provide disadvantaged students with more opportunities to obtain a place in a school that was not in their catchment area. Having reviewed a range of studies, whilst there were no

indisputable conclusions, the working party supported the opportunity to test the positive impact study on students eligible for FSM in the city.

- 3.17 These recommendations were supported by the CYP&S committee on 19 September 2016.
- 3.18 It had been hoped to undertake a public consultation on changes to the city's catchment areas incorporating the new secondary free school in the autumn of 2016 to take effect from September 2018. However, as detailed in the reports to the CYP&S committee in September 2016 and January 2017, without confirmation of the permanent site of The Brighton and Hove Academy, the council was unable to determine admission arrangements which included any revisions to existing catchment areas and therefore maintained its current admission arrangements for 2017/18 noting that if the new secondary free school was to open it would have a city wide catchment area. If the school had been oversubscribed places would have been allocated to pupils living closest to the school.
- 3.19 The confirmation, given in February 2016, to open the new school was made without an identified site for the new school. Extensive work was then undertaken to identify and secure a site for the school. A preferred site has now been confirmed, the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust's Brighton General Hospital site. In June 2017 confirmation was received from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) that the opening of The Brighton and Hove Academy would be postponed until September 2019.
- 3.20 For all those pupils that required a secondary school place for September 2017, the council has been able to offer them one. However, it has not been possible to offer all pupils a place at their catchment school even though parents have expressed a preference to attend it. On 1 March 2017, National Offer Day for secondary school places, 147 pupils were not offered a place at the catchment school and were directed to one of four schools in the City. This included 57 pupils in the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment area who, despite expressing a preference for one or both schools, did not receive a place at either of the schools. Parents have subsequently had the opportunity to apply for other schools or go through the re-allocation and appeal processes. As a result the 147 pupils affected are now attending one of 20 different schools, the majority of which as a result of parental preference. The number of pupils in the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment area directed to a school that was not a preference is now 12 pupils.
- 3.21 It is only when own admission authority schools (such as Cardinal Newman Catholic School (CNCS) and King's School as well as neighbouring local authorities) inform the council of their allocations at the start of a calendar year that the council can identify the number of pupils who are not in a position to be offered their catchment school.
- 3.22 The council's published admission arrangements state that where there are insufficient places to offer all pupils in an admission category a place an electronic random allocation process will be followed as a tie-break to identify those who will receive a place. It is understood that this method of tie-break can

create uncertainty to parents affected by there being fewer places in a catchment area than places available.

- 3.23 The application round for secondary school places in September 2018 starts on 1 September 2017 and closes on 31 October 2017. The council has sufficient school places to ensure all pupils who require a place are offered one. However it cannot guarantee that all pupils in a catchment area will be offered a place at that school. Further details of the admission process can be found in the information for parents booklet and council animation at: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/schooladmissions
- 3.24 The Council could not offer to provide additional places in the catchment areas affected for September 2017 because after careful consideration, and in close consultation with both Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools, the council decided that it would not be possible for the schools to accommodate these additional numbers. It was considered highly unlikely that if this number of places were offered that there would be sufficient movement in the number of pupils accepting the places offered for the published admission numbers still not to be significantly exceeded in September 2017.
- 3.25 There was every expectation that The Brighton & Hove Academy would open in September 2018 and thus provide additional secondary school places in the city, thereby giving additional choice to parents. It is for the reasons referred to earlier that additional places have not been created for September 2018 in the catchment areas affected by high pupil numbers.
- 3.26 It is now anticipated that The Brighton and Hove Academy will open in September 2019. At this stage it has not been possible to confirm the permanent site of the new school to the satisfaction of the ESFA and therefore a change to the city's catchment areas, to incorporate a new school, cannot be undertaken whilst this remains the position. The ESFA will only agree an opening date for a new school once a permanent site is identified and secured and they have assessed the time needed to obtain planning permission and complete any building works or refurbishment that might be required.
- 3.27 The admission arrangements for The Brighton and Hove Academy are the responsibility of the UoBAT. It is anticipated that the school will open in September 2019 without a catchment area as was the proposal when it was due to open in September 2018.
- 3.28 In order to alleviate the issue of catchment areas failing to catch in the last two admission rounds the council is proposing a light touch review of catchment areas. It is hoped that this will reduce the uncertainties experienced by parents as a result of the random allocation tie-break procedure as the review will mean that fewer places within a catchment area will need to be allocated in this way.
- 3.29 The council is proposing that these changes will be implemented for admissions in September 2019 and September 2020. It is intended that this will also reduce uncertainties which might arise if there is any further delay in confirming the permanent site for The Brighton & Hove Academy. Every effort is being made to secure the site to ensure the opening of the new school as soon as possible. As detailed in the Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme

2017/2018 report to the CYP&S committee in March 2017 a total of £15.0m is allocated to the provision of secondary places in the 2017/18 financial year.

- 3.30 To implement changes to admission arrangements in September 2020 a consultation would need to be held in Autumn 2018. It is anticipated that confirmation of the permanent site will not be available until Spring/Summer 2018. This would leave a restricted amount of time to undertake sufficient engagement exercises to inform the development of catchment area proposals across the city. By recommending arrangements which will remain in place for two years the Council will be better placed to develop proposals for September 2021 with greater certainty and with better informed engagement activities.

Background data

- 3.31 The council undertakes regular reviews of its pupil projection data. There are two sources of data that inform the council's planning. Firstly there is the estimated number of children who will be living in new housing developments. Over time an assumption of the number of children living in different types of accommodation has been developed and is applied to the numbers of homes detailed in the City Plan. The timing of when the proposed housing is actually built is affected by a number of factors. Whilst this is informed by professional judgment it is not exact and therefore this data is held separately and is not entered into more detailed projections based on catchment areas.
- 3.32 As detailed in Appendix 2 it is estimated that between 2014 and 2030 an additional 13,200 homes will be built in the city, generating a total of 1046 secondary aged pupils, from Years 7 to 11. By 2021 it is expected that approximately 483 pupils will be requiring school places on account of new housing, or just fewer than 100 in each year group.
- 3.33 The main source of pupil projection data for secondary aged pupils is found in Appendix 3 and summarised in paragraphs 3.34 – 3.36. This is calculated by taking the number of pupils recorded in the school census as attending a primary school and living in the catchment area and then adjusting this figure by the historical 'drop-out rate' which is created by considering how many of those living in this area do not go on to attend a city secondary school. Finally adjustments are made to represent the impact of pupils attending either CNCS or King's School whose admission arrangements mean that they take pupils from across the city.
- 3.34 The projections for the current admission arrangements show that in 2019 there will be 2598 pupils requiring places. With the opening of The Brighton and Hove Academy there will be 2795 places providing 197 spare places or 7% spare capacity. In 2020 there will be 2590 pupils requiring secondary school places. It is a recommended place planning convention that spare capacity should be in the region of between 5%- 10% to allow for an element of parental preference and to ensure sufficient places to accommodate pupils who require a place outside of the main transition points, such as families moving into the city part way through the academic year.
- 3.35 In 2019, the BACA, Blatchington Mill/Hove Park and the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment areas are projected to have more pupils than

places available. In total it is forecast that 126 pupils will not be able to be accommodated in their catchment area school. In total there are 100 places in the Patcham High School, Longhill High School and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA) catchment areas that will not be filled from children living in the catchment area.

- 3.36 In 2020, it is forecast that 138 pupils will not be accommodated in their catchment area and, in total, 120 places in the BACA, Patcham High School, Longhill High School and PACA catchment areas will not be filled from children living in the catchment area.
- 3.37 It is widely accepted that projecting pupil numbers is not an exact science and the modelling of the proposed changes to catchment areas provides a best effort indication of its likely impact but should not be considered an accurate portrayal of actual impact.

Proposed arrangements for September 2019

- 3.38 As previously detailed in earlier committee reports, the CPSOWG maintains an overview of the city's admission arrangements and has recommended the model proposed in this report after careful consideration and lengthy deliberations.
- 3.39 Under the School Admission Code, the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places must be fair, clear and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated. Therefore, where possible the Council ensures that catchment boundaries follow natural boundaries such as roads and incorporate complete postcodes.
- 3.40 The proposed changes to the catchment areas are detailed in Appendix 4 - 9. In summary, the catchment area of Dorothy Stringer/Varndean schools is being reduced by:
- a section to the northeast of Elm Grove being incorporated into the Longhill High School catchment
 - a section to the north being incorporated into the Patcham High School catchment area
 - two sections to the west being incorporated into the Blatchington Mill/Hove Park catchment area.
- 3.41 The Blatchington Mill/Hove Park catchment area is also being remodelled by:
- A section to the west being incorporated into the PACA catchment area.
- 3.42 There are no proposed changes to the BACA catchment area.
- 3.43 As previously mentioned, CNCS and King's School have admission arrangements that admit pupils across the city. Subject to planning permission approval, King's School will have been re-sited by September 2019 on the site of West Blatchington Primary School.

- 3.44 The UoBAT is expected to open The Brighton and Hove Academy without a defined catchment area but prioritising applications by distance, if oversubscribed. This arrangement will be in place for a period of two years, after that it is likely that the school will become part of the coordinated process.
- 3.45 Some families will find that their home address has been moved from one school catchment area to another. These families may have a child attending their previous catchment school and have a younger sibling due to transfer to secondary school in 2019-21 whilst the elder sibling is still at the original catchment school. In previous years when a change has been made to catchment areas, a 'sibling link' has been maintained by the council to honour the connection with the original catchment school. The council proposes to implement a sibling link as part of these proposed changes. This will mean that an application will be given the same priority as those where a sibling lives in the same household and the home is in the catchment area for the school in question. The projected pupil numbers have sought to incorporate the impact of this approach.
- 3.46 There will be no link for families whose catchment area changes and where the elder sibling will no longer be attending the original school.
- 3.47 To illustrate this approach, if a family live in an area that moves from the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment area to the Longhill High School catchment area and have a child who started at Varndean School in Year 7 in Sept 2016 and have a child currently in Year 5, there will be a sibling link for the youngest child when they start secondary school in September 2019.
- 3.48 There will be no link for a child whose older sibling is in the current Year 10 or above.
- 3.49 The proposed changes detailed in paragraph 3.40 – 3.41 cannot be considered individually because of the impact on school places in the other catchment areas. This is a best fit proposal that it is recommended to be reviewed in 2019 to inform changes to the admission arrangements for September 2021.
- 3.50 Appendix 10 outlines the projected pupil numbers for each catchment area under these proposals and are summarised in paragraphs 3.51 – 3.53. Due to the nature of the drop out calculation the figures for pupils expected to require a place in each catchment area is known to be different to that illustrating pupil numbers under the current catchment area models.
- 3.51 The forecasting of pupil numbers linked to the proposed adjustments to catchment areas shows that in 2019 there will be 2592 pupils requiring places. With the opening of The Brighton and Hove Academy there will be 2795 places providing 203 spare places or 7% spare capacity. In 2020 there will be 2584 pupils requiring secondary school places.
- 3.52 In 2019, a total of 52 pupils will not be able to be accommodated in their catchment area (Hove Park/Blatchington Mill and BACA). In total there are 48 places in catchment areas that cannot be filled from children living in the catchment area (PACA, Dorothy Stringer/Varndean and Longhill High School).

- 3.53 In 2020, 74 pupils will not be accommodated in their catchment area (Hove Park/Blatchington Mill, Dorothy Stringer/Varndean and Longhill High School) and, in total, 78 places cannot be filled from children living in the catchment area (PACA, BACA and Patcham High School).
- 3.54 The projections show that the Blatchington Mill/Hove Park catchment area remains under pressure during this period and there is also pressure in 2020 in the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean and Longhill High School catchment areas. It is accepted that the theoretical modelling of catchment area numbers will not necessarily replicate itself in the number of directions due to the impact of parental preference.
- 3.55 The age profile and distribution of pupils across the city mean that it is not possible to make adjustments which eliminate any theoretical modelling of catchment areas having more pupils than places available however this is the best fit proposal when consideration is also given to the need for easily identifiable catchment area boundaries.
- 3.56 Under the School Admission Code admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018. A public consultation must be undertaken between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018 and last for a minimum of 6 weeks. It is proposed that a public consultation should take place between 2 October 2017 and 19 November 2017.
- 3.57 The following public events are planned and subject to availability will be confirmed by the start of the consultation period:

Public Consultation Events			
Date	Session	Venue	Focus of session
Tuesday 3 October	Afternoon	Coombe Road Primary School	Primary PAN
Wednesday 4 October	Evening	Longhill High School	Secondary admissions
Thursday 5 October	Afternoon	West Hove Infant School - Connaught Road	Primary PAN
Tuesday 10 October	Evening	Dorothy Stringer School	Secondary admissions
Wednesday 11 October	Evening	PACA	Secondary admissions

Thursday 12 October	Afternoon	Benfield Primary School	Primary PAN
Tuesday 31 October	Afternoon	Hertford Infant School	Primary PAN
Tuesday 31 October	Evening	Patcham High School	Secondary admissions
Wednesday 1 November	Evening	West Hove Infant - School Road	Secondary admissions
Saturday 4 November	Morning	Jubilee Library	Secondary admissions
Wednesday 8 November	Evening	BACA	Secondary admissions
Thursday 9 November	Evening	Elm Grove Primary School	Secondary admissions

- 3.58 These will be an opportunity for the public to have the proposed changes explained and to have any questions or queries answered. An online consultation response form will allow the council to receive views on the proposals that will inform a further report to CYPS committee on 15 January 2018 prior to a recommendation being made to Full Council on 1 February 2018.
- 3.59 It is recognised that many families will have considered their secondary school preferences a number of years in advance of applying and many families will have made important decisions about their homes and jobs taking into account these thoughts.
- 3.60 Therefore a change to catchment areas may have a significant impact upon their personal expectations. This is not underestimated but a change to catchment areas is supported by the CPSOWG to address the uncertainties caused by the continuation of the existing arrangements.
- 3.61 The CPSOWG concluded that at this time no adjustment should be made to the existing admission priorities such as the inclusion of criteria for pupils in receipt of FSM, but this should be kept under review in future years.
- 3.62 The School Admission Code states that catchment areas must be designed so that they are reasonable and clearly defined.

Primary School Places

- 3.63 As part of determining their admission arrangements, all admission authorities must set an admission number for each 'relevant age group'. This is the age group at which pupils are or will normally be admitted to the school. The Council's admission arrangements therefore include the setting of the PAN of each school for which the council is the admission authority.
- 3.64 There are no plans to change the PANs of any of the secondary schools. It is proposed to change the PAN of five primary/infant schools.
- 3.65 Further to the forecasting of pupil numbers generated from new housing, as detailed in paragraph 3.32, the council also forecasts primary pupil numbers using information about the numbers of children registered with GP surgeries in the city.
- 3.66 The city's primary schools are split into 10 planning areas that represent the area from where a school draws its pupils. The city's primary schools do not have catchment areas.
- 3.67 The data supplied by the NHS on GP registrations is then adjusted to take account of the number of pupils who historically have not sought a place at a city school. Currently the adjustment is a reduction of 10% to take account of those pupils who are either educated outside of the mainstream maintained sector or move away from the area prior to a place being sought.
- 3.68 Across the city the projected number of pupils expected to need a primary school is beginning to reduce. This will leave the City with more than the 5-10% surplus capacity of school places recommended to take account of parental preference and pupils requiring a place outside of the main admission round.
- 3.69 This comes at a time when school budgets are under increasing pressure and the availability of spare places has the potential to create additional complexities for Headteachers to manage. The Council is committed to ensure that no school is disadvantaged by the actions of others and supports the family of schools approach to education in the city. The Council is committed to ensuring that all schools remain open. In learning the lessons from previous years nationally, the Council does not want to reduce the amount of school accommodation available across the city. This will mean that when demand for places increases in the future places can be made available without additional expenditure on building work.
- 3.70 Schools face an immediate financial pressure when class sizes are low. Under the School Admission Code a school is required to admit up to its PAN in the year of entry and comply with the requirements of Infant Class Size (ICS) legislation. The experience of some schools in the city is that they have admitted a number of pupils that has made class sizes less viable. For example a school with a PAN of 60 may have 46 pupils apply for a school place. ICS legislation requires a class to be limited to one teacher for every 30 pupils. Therefore the school would have a class of 30 pupils and a class of 16 pupils or any variation up to two classes of 23 pupils. In general, schools require class sizes of at least 26-27 pupils to ensure the efficient delivery of education.

- 3.71 The intention to reduce the PAN of five schools is to actively manage the availability of spare places across the city. Most schools are in planning areas that demonstrate the overcapacity of places.
- 3.72 This approach is an initial activity until the longer term projection of pupil numbers is better known. It is possible that further reductions will be proposed in future admission consultations or in exceptional circumstances from seeking a variation to established admission numbers by the Schools Adjudicator.
- 3.73 It is proposed that the following reductions to PANs are made:
- Moulsecoomb Primary School - 30 places
 - Coombe Road Primary School – 30 places
 - West Hove Infant School – 30 places
 - Benfield Primary School – 30 places
 - Hertford Infant and Nursery School – 30 places
- 3.74 The Council is the admission authority for these schools and the proposals are supported by the governing bodies of
- Moulsecoomb Primary School
 - Coombe Road Primary School
 - West Hove Infant School
- 3.75 Within the schedule of public meetings detailed in paragraph 3.57 there are events that will focus upon the proposal to reduce the PAN of five primary schools. This will ensure that the proposals can be explained further and there is the opportunity for interested parties to raise questions and queries. The consultation response form will have a specific section relating to the proposals to reduce the PANs of these five schools.
- 3.76 It is important to recognise that the proposal to reduce the PAN of these schools does not imply any negative judgment of any school. Four of the five schools are judged good or better by Ofsted. Rather it is a result of needing to take a strategic oversight of the availability of spare primary places across the city and consider the pattern of parental preference alongside the geographical distribution of children in the city.
- 3.77 It is anticipated that this will not be the only reductions in PAN required in the short to medium term in an effort to ensure that all of the city's family of schools remain viable and the city's stock of school places remain available in the longer term.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The CPSOWG and SAWG have undertaken extensive analysis of a range of different admission arrangements from which the CPSOWG has recommended the proposal outlined in this report to take effect from September 2019.
- 4.2 As can be expected, the CPSOWG has not always agreed about the specific boundaries of the options put forward but as a group they have identified the

proposal to put forward to consultation contained in this report. It seeks to address the pressure on existing catchment areas and the anticipated future demand for places.

- 4.3 The proposals have taken account of the balance between fluctuating pupil numbers in different parts of the city, the need for catchment boundaries that are clear and take account of the city's geography and existing transport links.
- 4.4 It is important to stress that the working party has been working on data that has been projected into the future. They are aware that the reliability of the data cannot be guaranteed the further into the future is projected but they have been assured of the soundness of the methodology behind its creation.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.5, this report recommends that the Committee agree to a public consultation between 2 October 2017 and 19 November to inform the decision of the Full Council on 1 February 2018.
- 5.2 12 public meetings have been scheduled across the city to present the proposals outlined in this report and to provide an opportunity to respond to any questions and queries that attendees have about the proposals. An online response form will be available to gather responses through the Council's online consultation portal.
- 5.3 The CPSOWG has met and discussed the proposals. Headteachers and governing bodies are able to provide further responses to the proposals through the online consultation portal.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report are the recommended changes to the city's admission arrangements put forward by the CPSOWG, to take effect from September 2019.
- 6.2 It is proposed that these light touch temporary changes to catchment areas remain in effect for two years and that a further review is undertaken in 2019 to look at admission arrangements from 2021 onwards.
- 6.3 The changes seek to respond to the pressures on existing catchment areas where there are more pupils than places available whilst maintaining criteria that parents can look at and easily understand how places for that school will be allocated.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 It is not possible to quantify in detail the financial implications of these recommendations. However, any changes to admission arrangements or patterns may impact on the numbers of pupils at individual schools and therefore individual school budget allocations which are largely driven by pupil numbers.

The current bulge in pupils at primary schools will filter into the secondary phase in the coming years, and this has been highlighted at a national level for authorities across the country, however there are several things that are uncertain, and will impact on the overall pupil numbers in the city's catchment areas, and those that then choose a particular school or academy as their preferred choice. The expected increase in pupils needing a place at a secondary school or academy indicated in Appendix 2 will not be spread evenly across year groups or across the city; however it does indicate that the new Brighton and Hove Academy will be needed in the city at some point, probably opening from 2019 onwards.

The viability of the secondary schools and academies will depend on the number of pupils they have; however depending upon when and where in the city the increase in secondary age pupils occurs, this could impact on one or more of the current schools or academies with spaces or the new Brighton and Hove Academy, and therefore could result in financial difficulties, depending upon the level of pupil intake and the staffing structures in those establishments.

The budget to pay for the cost of the site and the build for the new Brighton and Hove Academy, has been identified in the March 2017 CYP&S committee report under Basic Need at £15m.

Most of the primary schools where it is proposed to reduce by a form of entry have had reduced pupil numbers over the past few years, and this has resulted in a number of restructures in order to balance the school budgets, one of which includes vertically grouping classes, and therefore a reduction by a form of entry is proposed at 5 of the city's primary schools and supported by the governing bodies of 3 of them. This should help those schools manage their budgets by having greater certainty in their pupil intake in the coming years.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 07/09/17

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the School Admissions (Admissions Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 2012 require admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements annually. Arrangements must be determined 18 months in advance of the academic year to which they apply.

Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. The School Admissions Code 2014 states that consultation must be for a minimum of six weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. The admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient primary and secondary schools to provide suitable education to meet the needs of the population in its area (section 14 Education Act 1996).

School admission arrangements must conform to the provisions of the School Admissions Code. The Code makes it clear that “in drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated” (paragraph 14 of the Introduction to the Code).

Paragraph 1.8 of the Code provides that oversubscription criteria must be “reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all legislation, including equalities legislation.” Catchment areas must be designed so that they are “reasonable and clearly defined”. There is no statutory requirement that all pupils living within a catchment area must be offered a place at the catchment school(s).

Paragraph 1.3 of the Code provides that admission authorities must consult where they propose a decrease in the published admission number. Community schools have the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish.

Part 3.02(a)(ii) of the Council’s constitution provides that any strategic issues or reviews of the council’s school admission arrangements, including any changes to catchment areas are reserved to Full Council. The outcome of the consultation will be brought back to CYPS committee in January 2018. CYPS committee will then recommend the admission arrangements it considers should be adopted to the meeting of Full Council on 1 February 2018.

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 31/08/2017

Equalities Implications:

- 7.2 As this report seeks a recommendation to undertake a public consultation exercise an Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. Following a review of the responses and the recommendation of a final proposal to be considered by the CYP&S committee in January 2018 and then Full Council in February 2018 a full EIA will be undertaken if required.
- 7.3 The council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all pupils who require one and the proposed changes ensure that this is the case. The modelling of pupil numbers indicates that there will be sufficient places available in September 2019 and September 2020

although some catchment areas may not have sufficient places in the schools which serve those areas.

- 7.4 The catchment areas where oversubscription is predicted to occur in 2019 without any change are: Hove Park/Blatchington Mill Schools, Dorothy Stringer/Varndean Schools and BACA. In 2020 these will be oversubscription at: Hove Park/Blatchington Mill Schools and Dorothy Stringer/Varndean Schools.
- 7.5 The proposed changes have oversubscription predicted to occur in: Hove Park/Blatchington Mill, Longhill High School, BACA and Patcham High School. In 2020 these will be: Hove Park/Blatchington Mill, Dorothy Stringer/Varndean and Longhill High School.
- 7.6 Planning and consultation for school admissions procedures and school places and the operation of the admission process are conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The City Council and own admission authority schools' governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice with regard to equalities issues as described in the School Admissions Code.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.7 School admission arrangements are intended so far as it is possible to provide pupils with local places where parents have indicated a preference for one. The planning of school places for the city takes into account the changing population pattern and resultant demand for places.

The current pattern of parental preference is reflected in different schools operating both over and under capacity. In planning for school places the Council will have regard to sustainability priorities and seek to provide local places and places which are accessible by safe walking and where possible cycling routes and public transport wherever this is possible.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Various Implications
2. Pupil number forecast from additional development
3. Secondary pupil projections for existing catchment areas
4. Proposed catchment areas for 2019/20
5. Proposed catchment areas for 2019/20 with areas of change highlighted
6. Detailed map of change to catchment area – BM/HP to PACA
7. Detailed map of change to catchment area – DS/V to HP/BM
8. Detailed map of change to catchment area – DS/V to PHS
9. Detailed map of change to catchment area – DS/V to LHS
10. Secondary pupil projections for proposed catchment areas
11. Primary pupil projections
12. Membership of CPSOWG and SAWP

Appendix 1

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 Balanced school communities with firm parental support contribute to orderly and harmonious communities.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Any change to school attendance patterns and pupil numbers will impact directly on resource allocation both revenue and capital, and on the Council's ability to meet parental expectations on school places. Pupil data and broader population data is used to identify the numbers of school places required and where they should be located. This feeds into the capital programme so that resources are allocated where they will have the most beneficial effect.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 None known.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The allocation of school places affects all families in all parts of the city and can influence where people choose to live. Failure to obtain the desired choice of school can create a strong sense of grievance. The process of expressing a preference and if disappointed, entering an appeal can create intense anxiety for many families in the city. Admission arrangements together with school place planning are framed in such a way as to be mindful of supporting the needs of communities.