

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>School Admission Arrangements 2019/20</b>	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People &amp; Skills Committee 15 January 2018</b>	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director Families, Children &amp; Learning</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>	

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

*Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the public consultation closed on 19 November 2017, scheduled meetings with the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group regarding the school admission arrangements concluded on 20 December 2017 and a late submission was received from Varndean School on 5 January.*

**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 responses to the published consultation undertaken between the 2 October 2017 and 19 November 2017 and makes recommendations to the Committee of proposals to take forward in light of those responses and revised data regarding the expected number of pupils in the city requiring a school place.
- 1.2 Local Authorities set out the Published Admission Number and catchment areas as well as schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and 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.
- 1.3 The City Council must have confirmed its admission arrangements for 2019-20 by 28 February 2018 in order to conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 The committee agree to reduce the Published Admission Number at Moulsecoomb Primary School by 30 pupils in September 2019 (Paragraph 3.15).

- 2.2 The committee agree to reduce the Published Admission Number at Coombe Road Primary School by 30 pupils in September 2019 (Paragraph 3.16).
- 2.3 The committee agree to reduce the Published Admission Number at West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road site) by 30 pupils in September 2019 (Paragraphs 3.17 - 3.18).
- 2.4 The committee agree to make no change to the Published Admission Number at Benfield Primary School in September 2019 (Paragraphs 3.19 - 3.20).
- 2.5 The committee agree to make no change to the Published Admission Number at Hertford Infant School in September 2019 (Paragraphs 3.21 – 3.22).
- 2.6 The committee note the permanent increase to the Published Admission Number of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form from 300 pupils to 330 pupils with effect from September 2018 (Paragraphs 3.34 – 3.35).
- 2.7 The committee agree to the permanent increase to the Published Admission Number of Patcham High School from 215 pupils to 225 pupils in September 2019 (Paragraph 3.31).
- 2.8 The committee agree to an additional temporary class of 30 pupils at Dorothy Stringer High School for admission in September 2019 and again in September 2020 (Paragraphs 3.32).
- 2.9 The committee agree to an additional temporary class of 30 pupils at Varndean School for admission in September 2019 and again in September 2020 (Paragraphs 3.32).
- 2.10 The committee agree to note the request to permanently increase the Published Admission Number of Varndean School which will be subject to further discussions between the governing body and the Council (Paragraph 3.33).
- 2.11 The committee agree to make no change to secondary school catchment areas (Paragraph 3.48) shown in Appendix 8.
- 2.12 The committee agree that the proposed school Published Admission Numbers set out in Appendix 6 be adopted for the admissions year 2019-20 (Paragraphs 3.61- 3.62).
- 2.13 The committee agree that the admission priorities for community schools set out in Appendix 7 be adopted for the relevant age groups (Paragraphs 3.55 – 3.59).
- 2.14 The committee agree that the co-ordinated schemes of admission for the admission year 2019-20 (Paragraph 3.63 and Appendices 9 and 10) and relevant area (Paragraph 3.60) be approved.

### **3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Children Young People & Skills (CYP&S) Committee on 18 September 2017 recommended that a public consultation was undertaken on proposed changes to the council's admission arrangements including changes to secondary school

catchment areas and the reduction in Published Admission Number (PAN) of five primary schools.

- 3.2 A 7 week consultation period ran from 2 October 2017 – 19 November 2017. During that time 13 public meetings were held, attended by approximately 310 people, the online consultation form received 907 responses and 48 emails were received into the specific consultation mailbox. Three petitions have been received either at Full Council or CYP&S committee, alongside three deputations.
- 3.3 A summary of all the responses received via the Council's Have Your Say online consultation portal can be found in Appendix 2. Due to the nature of the consultation covering various proposals it is worth noting that respondents may have commented on only part of the overall consultation and not all aspects of the proposals.
- 3.4 During the consultation period a commitment was given to review the data used to inform the proposals brought forward. Projections of future pupil numbers in each of the secondary school catchment areas had been modelled using the School Census data from October 2016 and projections of primary pupil numbers generated using GP registration data which had been received in November 2016. The timing of the consultation, determined by statutory guidance, the School Admissions Code, meant that data from the October 2017 census and from the NHS was not available for analysis prior to consultation.
- 3.5 The Cross Party School Organisation Working Group (CPSOWG) has met twice since the consultation closed to consider the responses received. These meetings took place on 27 November 2017 and 20 December 2017. The Secondary Admission Working Party (SAWP) met on 6 December 2017.

### **Changes to Pupil Projection Data**

- 3.6 There has been a reduction in the number of primary aged pupils recorded as living in the city and being registered with GPs, as compared with the data supplied in November 2016, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

<b>Year Group (Sept 2017)</b>	<b>Total (Nov 2016)</b>	<b>Total (Nov 2017)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Reception	3,019	2,986	-33
1	3,140	3,120	-20
2	3,230	3,185	-45
3	3,277	3,245	-32
4	3,145	3,116	-29
5	3,211	3,175	-36
6	3,100	3,073	-27
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,122</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>-222</b>

- 3.7 A total of 222 fewer primary aged pupils are recorded as living in the city and registered with a GP surgery.

- 3.8 The prediction of future primary school pupil numbers has also been adjusted to take account of updated GP registration data and is fully detailed in Appendix 3. There are anticipated to be 43 fewer pupils starting school in September 2019. In total 2,597 places are expected to be required.

Table 2

<b>Starting school year</b>	<b>Total (Nov 2016)</b>	<b>Total (Nov 2017)</b>	<b>Variance</b>
2019/20	2,640	2,597	-43

- 3.9 The updated GP registration data indicates that the future number of secondary aged pupils will reduce because of the reduction in the number of children living in the city, registered with GPs, between October 2016 and October 2017.
- 3.10 There has been a fall in the number of pupils recorded on roll at the city's schools as shown in the School Census data taken in October 2016 and October 2017. Comparing all year groups that feature in both census returns there is a reduction of 341 pupils attending the city's schools. The largest reduction (163 pupils) occurred in the cohort who started Year 7 in September 2017.
- 3.11 It is not the purpose of this report to speculate on the reason for the reduction that has happened in the last 12 months. However when this base data is applied to the calculations used to predict the demand for future secondary school places it has brought about a small reduction in the anticipated number of pupils requiring a school place.
- 3.12 Using the most recent census data has generated a reduction in the total number of pupils requiring a place in a catchment area school of 52 pupils in 2019 and 87 pupils in 2020. A summary is provided in Table 3 and Table 4 below.

Table 3 - September 2019

<b>October 2016 school census data</b>			<b>October 2017 school census data</b>				
<b>Catchment Area</b>	<b>PAN</b>	<b>Projected number of pupils – 2019 (A)</b>	<b>Catchment area</b>	<b>PAN (as of 22.12.17)</b>	<b>Projected number of pupils – 2019 (B)</b>	<b>Variance (A-B)</b>	
PACA	240	186	PACA	240	174	-12	
Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	600	629	Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	630	623	-6	
Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	600	696	Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	600	669	-27	
Patcham High School	215	207	Patcham High School	215	210	+3	
BACA	180	181	BACA	180	170	-11	
Longhill	270	232	Longhill	270	233	+1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2105</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>-52</b>	

Table 4 - September 2020

October 2016 school census data			October 2017 school census data				
Catchment Area	PAN	Projected number of pupils – 2020 (A)	Catchment area	PAN (as of 22.12.17)	Projected number of pupils – 2020 (B)	Variance (A-B)	
PACA	240	173	PACA	240	178	+5	
Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	600	602	Hove Park & Blatchington Mill	630	577	-25	
Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	600	736	Dorothy Stringer & Varndean	600	693	-43	
Patcham High School	215	197	Patcham High School	215	208	+11	
BACA	180	165	BACA	180	138	-27	
Longhill	270	250	Longhill	270	242	-8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,105</b>	<b>2,123</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>-87</b>	

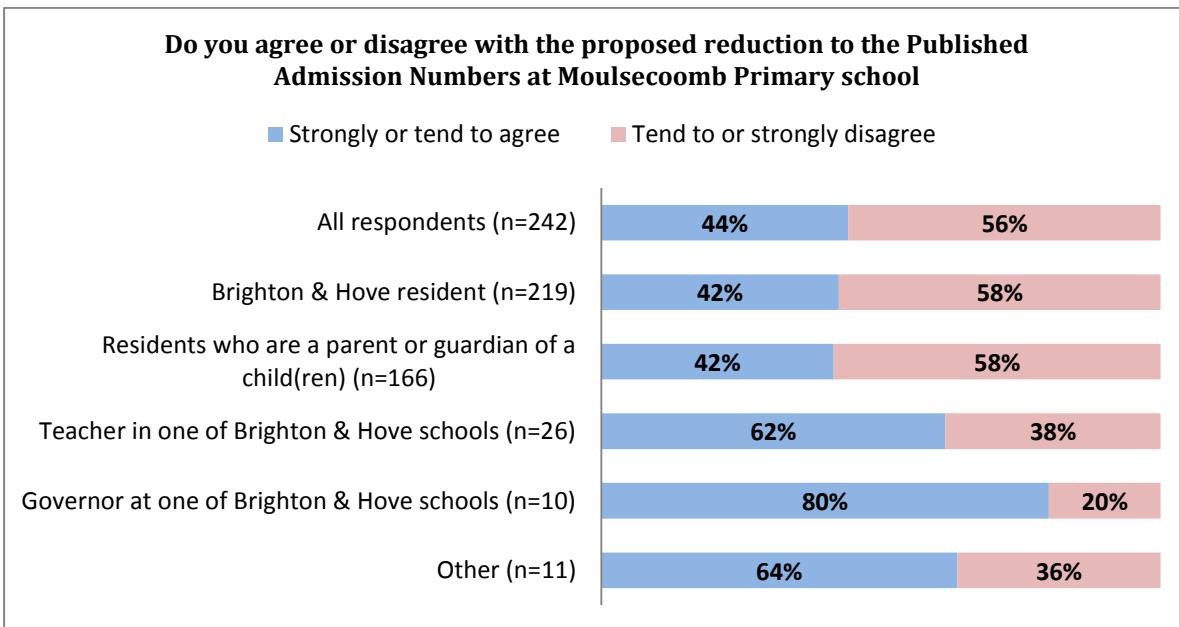
- 3.13 Under the existing catchment area model, the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools catchment area was identified as having more pupils than places available. The revised data has reduced the shortfall of places by 27 places in 2019 and 43 places in 2020. There still remain more pupils than places available in the catchment area in the two years under consideration, a shortfall of 69 places in 2019 and 93 places in 2020.
- 3.14 Even with the additional places offered by both schools on a temporary basis not all pupils living in the catchment area can be offered a place at one of the catchment area schools. However the number of pupils who will not receive a place is fewer than that indicated by the projections calculated using the October 2016 census data and there are sufficient places overall in the city for all pupils who require a place.

### **Primary School Published Admission Numbers**

#### **Moulsecoomb Primary School**

- 3.15 The summary of responses received is shown in Table 5 below. In total 44.3% of all respondents tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Comments received reflected on low pupil numbers in the area as a result of changes in housing use. As outlined in the September 2017 committee report, the proposal to reduce the school's PAN by 30 pupils from three forms of entry to two forms of entry is supported by the school's governing body, although they are clear that any additional reduction in the school's PAN would not be supported. It is therefore recommended that the school's PAN is reduced.

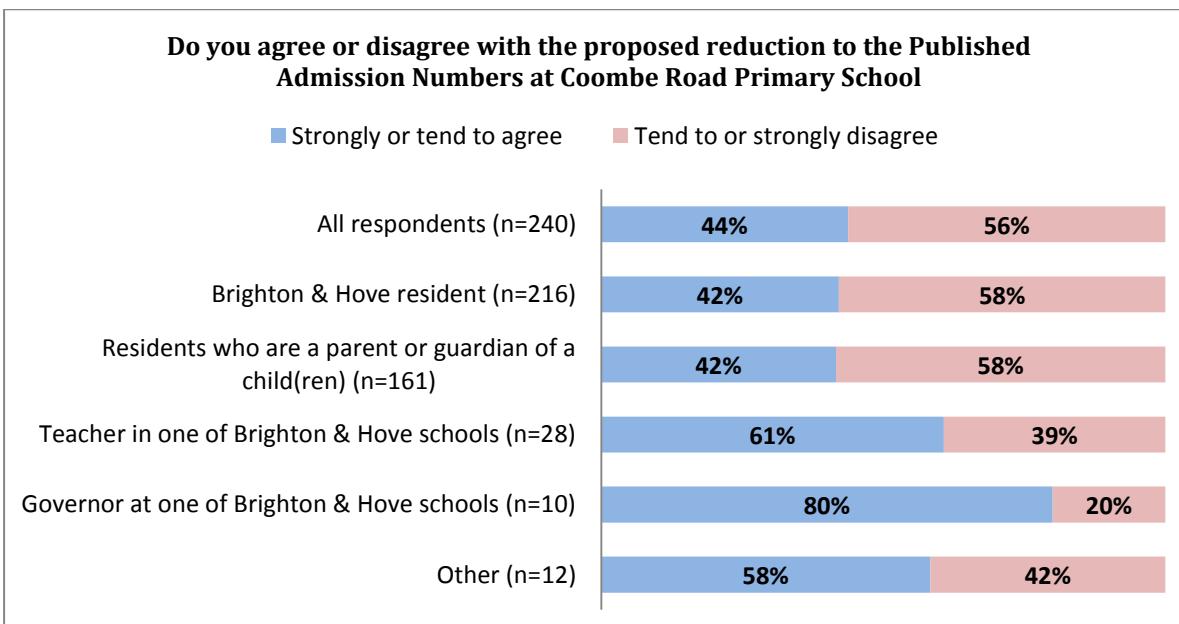
Table 5



### Coombe Road Primary School

- 3.16 The summary of responses received is shown in Table 6 below. In total 43.7% of all respondents tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Comments received reflected on low pupil numbers in the area as a result of changes in housing use and a concern about there being sufficient school places locally should a reduction in PAN take place at Hertford Infants, Coombe Road and Moulsecoomb primary schools. As outlined in the September 2017 committee report, the proposal to reduce the school's PAN by 30 pupils from two forms of entry to one form of entry is supported by the school's governing body. It is therefore recommended that the school's PAN is reduced.

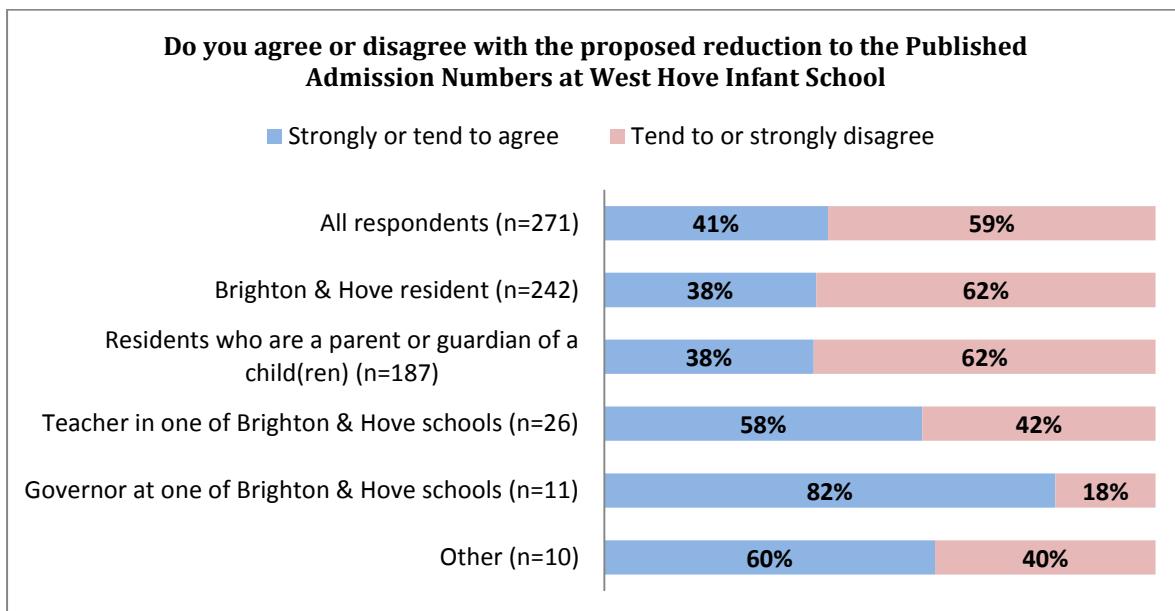
Table 6



## **West Hove Infants (Connaught Road)**

- 3.17 The summary of responses received is shown in Table 7. In total 40.6% of all respondents tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Comments received related to concern about recent decisions on future housing being made in the proximity, concern about the current size of the school and the impact other historical school expansions had on the availability of places in the area. Some concern was also expressed that the proposal would reduce the possibility that families living in the south western areas of Hove would be denied an opportunity to attend a local school, especially with the corresponding proposal to reduce the PAN of Benfield Primary School.
- 3.18 As outlined in the September 2017 report, the proposal to reduce the school's PAN by 30 pupils from four forms of entry to three forms of entry was supported by the school's governing body. Whilst concerns have been expressed as outlined above it is recommended that the school's PAN is reduced.

Table 7

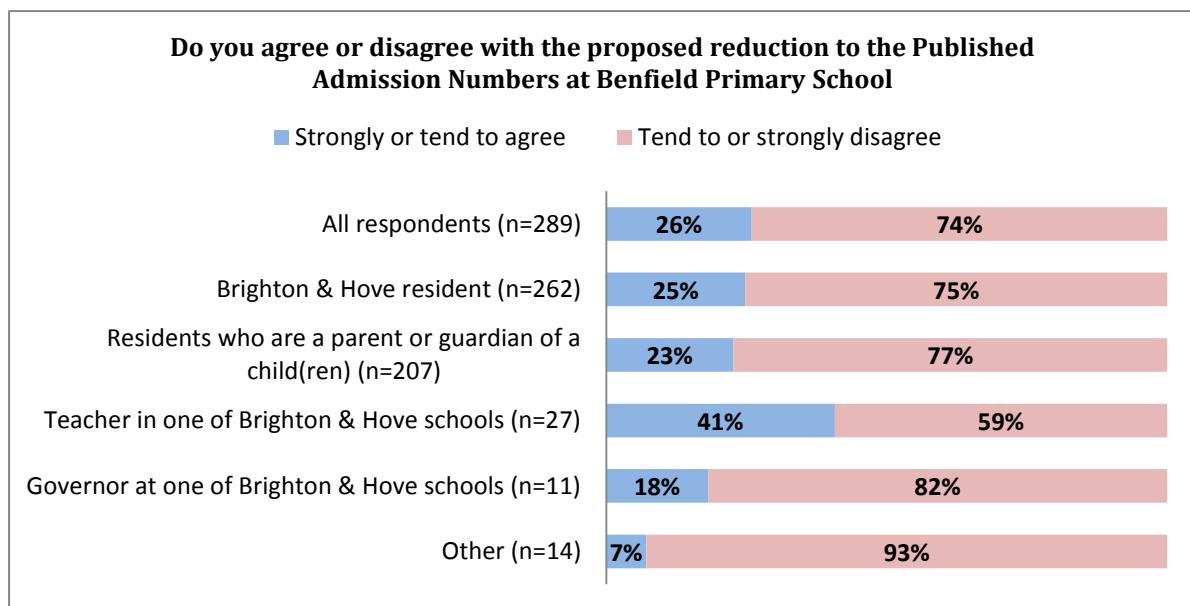


## **Benfield Primary School**

- 3.19 The summary of responses received is shown in Table 8. In total just 26% of all respondents tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Only 18% of respondents who are governors in a Brighton and Hove school tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Many comments were received regarding the journey that the school has been on leading to it recently gaining Teaching School status and its contribution to the city's wider school improvement work. It was felt by many respondents that this would be put at risk should the school's PAN be reduced to one form of entry. Concerns were also expressed about the school being able to admit all pupils who wish to attend the school and the options available to parents who would not wish to send their child to a one form entry primary school, if the PAN was reduced.

- 3.20 The school's governing body do not support the proposal and after considering the range of responses it is recommended not to propose the reduction in PAN from two forms of entry to one form of entry.

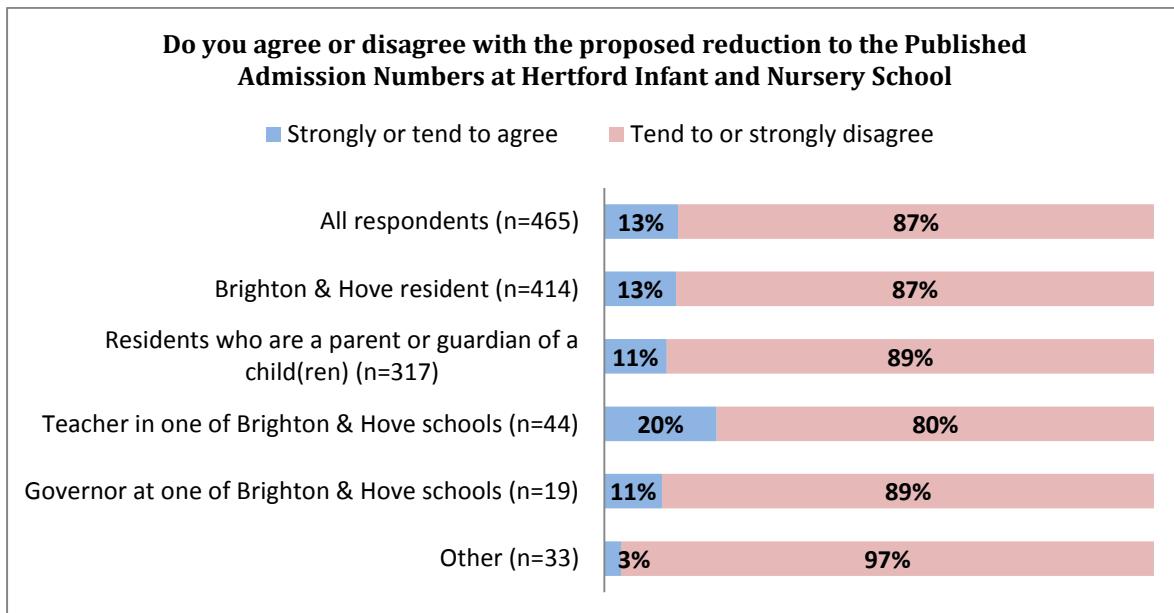
Table 8



### Hertford Infant School

- 3.21 The summary of responses received is shown in Table 9. In total just 13.4% of all respondents tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Only 11% of respondents who are governors in a Brighton and Hove school tended to or strongly agreed with the proposal. Many comments were received regarding the impact of reducing the infant school to one form of entry including the school's financial viability, the effect on the surrounding area and the demographic of the school. Many respondents commented on the quality of the current provision of education available at the infant school and the junior school, including their impact in reducing the gap in performance between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils as well as considering the impact on other schools in the neighbouring area.
- 3.22 The school's governing body do not support the proposal and after considering the range of responses it is recommended not to propose the reduction in PAN from two forms of entry to one form of entry.

Table 9



3.23 Currently there are 3,030 primary school places available in the city. Should the recommendations be agreed, 90 primary school places will be removed in September 2019 leaving 2,940 primary school places. The Council remains concerned that the number of available places in primary schools across the city exceeds the number of pupils projected to require a place in the foreseeable future by over 300 places, just over 10% surplus capacity.

3.24 With lower pupil projection numbers, a reduction of 90 places in September 2019 does not sufficiently address the issue and with continued pressure on school budgets there may be a need to review PANs or look at other organisational changes in future years.

3.25 Appendix 3 shows that in the following primary school planning areas there remain significant surplus places:

- Portslade
- Hangleton and Hove Park
- West Blatchington and North Hangleton
- Hollingbury and Preston Park to Seafront
- The Deans

and the council will need to work with governing bodies and Headteachers to ensure there is no detrimental effect on the performance of schools.

### **Secondary School Admission Arrangements**

3.26 The Council put forward a proposal to undertake a light touch review of secondary school catchment areas and recommended that this change was for a two year period (2019 and 2020). The council recognised that some respondents to the consultation did not agree with the description of the proposed changes as light touch, a term used to distinguish these proposals from the more wide ranging proposals put forward in the engagement activity in Spring 2016.

- 3.27 In order to alleviate the issue of catchment areas failing to catch the council proposed a review of catchment areas. This was put forward to look to reduce the uncertainties experienced by some parents as in recent years the number of pupils in some catchment areas had exceeded the places available at the catchment school(s). The intention was that the proposed changes would better match the number of pupils living in a catchment area with the places available at the relevant catchment school(s).
- 3.28 The committee report in September 2017 outlined that the projections showed that in 2019 there would be 2,598 pupils requiring secondary school places. In 2020 there would be 2,590 pupils requiring secondary school places. In 2019, the BACA, Blatchington Mill/Hove Park and the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean catchment areas were projected to have more pupils than places available. In total it was forecast that 126 pupils would not be able to be accommodated in their catchment area school in September 2019. In total it was forecast that there were 100 places in the Patcham High School, Longhill High School and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA) catchment areas that would not be filled from children living in the catchment area in September 2019. In 2020, it was forecast that 138 pupils would not be accommodated in their catchment area and, in total, 120 places in the BACA, Patcham High School, Longhill High School and PACA would not be filled by catchment children.
- 3.29 As has been noted in paragraphs 3.6 – 3.14, the latest GP data and school census data shows a reduction in numbers of school age pupils. This is the data on which the forecast of pupil numbers are based and consequently this has brought about a reduction in the anticipated number of pupils requiring a school place in future years.
- 3.30 During the consultation it became evident that some existing schools wished to provide additional places by increasing their PAN.
- 3.31 Patcham High School has requested to increase their PAN permanently by 10 pupils from 215 pupils to 225 pupils from September 2019. The request from the governing body is to ensure that the school has the appropriate number of children in the school to more accurately reflect the school's capacity. The school states that the number of children it has in Key Stage 4 is not sufficient to fill all the subjects that the school would like to be able to offer in order to provide a wide and varied curriculum.
- 3.32 A joint response to the consultation from the governing bodies of Dorothy Stringer and Varndean Schools states that they would now be prepared to admit an additional form of entry, as a temporary measure, in both September 2019 and September 2020. Both schools had felt unable to admit additional pupils in September 2017 due to concerns about increasing pressures on teaching accommodation and other common areas in the school such as toilets, corridors and dining areas. They had also expressed concerns about the amount of space available to support pupils with additional needs. However notwithstanding these issues both schools have advised that offering additional temporary forms of entry for 2019 and 2020 will in their view provide greater clarity and stability to families in their current catchment area.

- 3.33 In a late submission from the governing body of Varndean School, they have made a request to increase their PAN from 270 to 300 pupils on a permanent basis from September 2018. No recommendation is made in this report, regarding the request, on account of the time available to fully understand impact of this proposal including the future capital funding implications.
- 3.34 Blatchington Mill School indicated a willingness to permanently admit an additional form of entry. Whilst the school publicly indicated their willingness to do so during the period of the public consultation the school had also sought to appeal to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to appeal against the PAN set for the school in September 2018.
- 3.35 The Schools Adjudicator determined their appeal on 19 December 2017 and has confirmed that the school's PAN has increased for September 2018 to 330 pupils. As a result of this determination the Council agrees that the school's PAN in September 2019 will remain at the higher level of 330 pupils.
- 3.36 With the additional places available at Blatchington Mill school the total number of school places within the city's catchment areas is 2,135. If the Council agrees to provide additional temporary places at Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools, then this, together with the small increase in PAN at Patcham High School, means that, there will be a total of 2,205 school places in the city's catchment areas.
- 3.37 The modelling of future pupil numbers revised with the data from the October Census 2017 information (Appendix 4) indicates that using the current catchment area model the total number of places required in the city's catchment areas is 2,079 in September 2019 and 2,036 in September 2020. Across the city in total there are projected to be 2,506 pupils requiring a school place in September 2019 and 2,463 in September 2020.
- 3.38 As summarised in Tables 3 and 4 and paragraph 3.12 above the most recent census data shows a reduction in the total number of pupils requiring a place in a catchment area school of 52 pupils in 2019 and 87 pupils in 2020.
- 3.39 As detailed in paragraphs 3.13 and 3.14, the latest data has reduced the shortfall of places in the Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools catchment area by 27 places in 2019 and 43 places in 2020. There still remain more pupils than places available in the catchment area in the two years under consideration, a shortfall of 69 places in 2019 and 93 places in 2020. Even with the additional places offered by both schools on a temporary basis not all pupils living in the catchment area will be able to receive a place at one of the catchment area schools.
- 3.40 The number of pupils who will not receive a place is fewer than that indicated by the projections calculated using the October 2016 census data and there are sufficient places in the city for all pupils who require a place.
- 3.41 Beyond the two year period that the changes to catchment areas were being proposed to consider, it can be seen in Table 10 that the number of pupils requiring a place in 2021 and 2022 has also reduced. Whilst there remain insufficient places in the catchment areas for all pupils expected to require a

place, (in 2021, 2,171 pupils for 2,135 places), it now appears as though there are sufficient places across the city with 2,598 pupils and 2,645 places in 2020 and 2,537 pupils for 2,645 places in 2021.

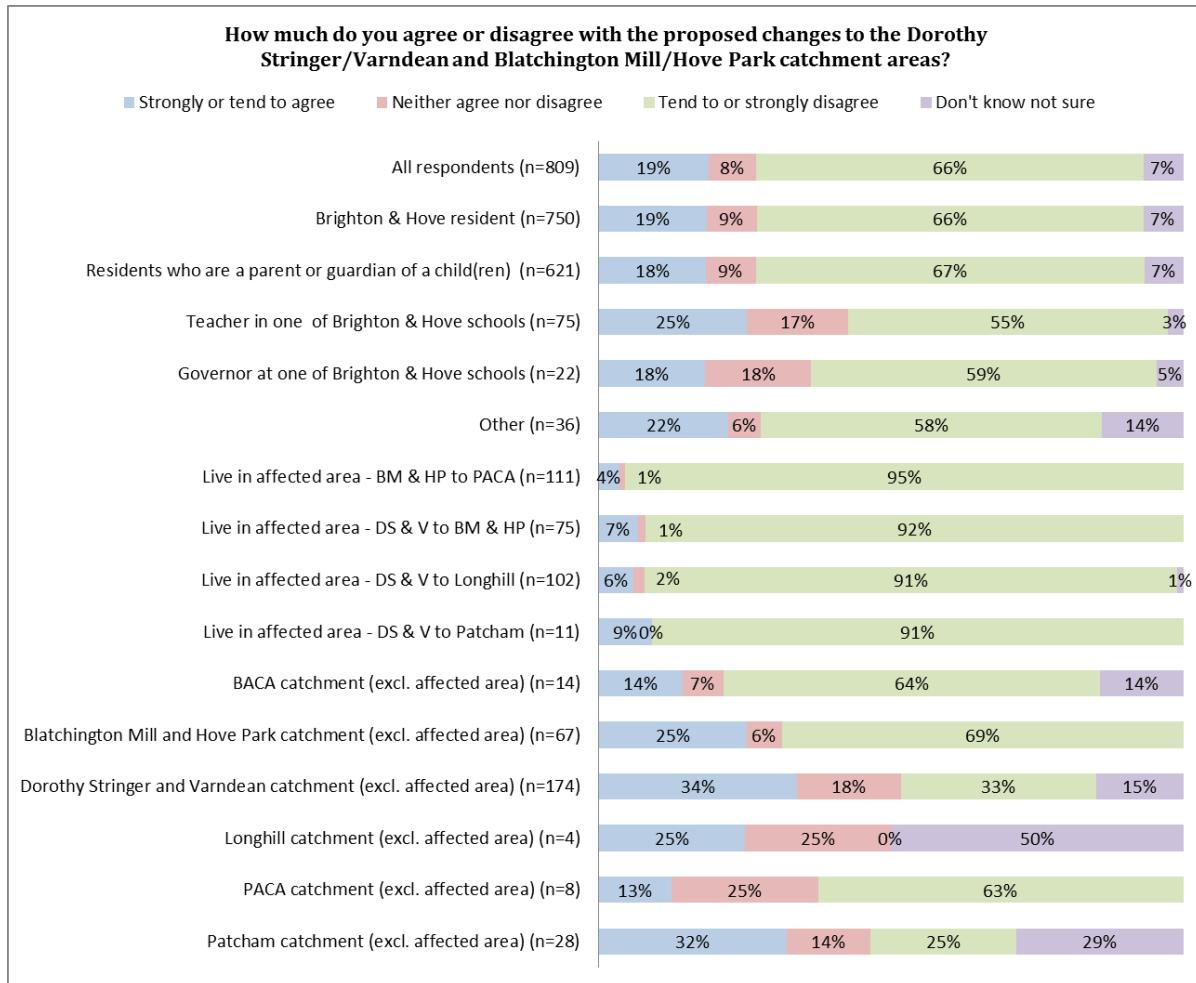
Table 10

<b>Starting secondary school</b>	<b>October 2016 school census data (A)</b>	<b>October 2017 school census data (B)</b>	<b>Variance (A-B)</b>
2021/22	2,714	2,598	-116
2022/23	2,636	2,537	-99
2023/24	2,555	2,502	-53

- 3.42 Therefore with an additional 100 places available in the city's catchment area schools in 2019 and 2020 and the estimated number of pupils in the city requiring a school place falling by 92 pupils in 2019 and 127 pupils in 2020 careful consideration has been given to the proposal to make changes to the secondary school catchment areas.
- 3.43 The data modelling the demand for places in catchment areas does not take account of the number of additional pupils who will be requiring a school place in the city as a result of house building (Appendix 5). As previously referenced in the September 2017 committee report the City Plan states that an additional 13,200 homes will be built in the city by 2030 and it is anticipated that this will generate an additional 1,216 primary aged pupils and 1,046 secondary aged pupils.
- 3.44 The Council is cautious to avoid underestimating the impact the potential increase in pupil numbers caused by new homes being built will have. However it does recognise that in the immediate future many of these new homes will not be completed in the timescale first estimated. Therefore in considering the recommendations in this report more emphasis has been placed on the catchment area forecasts than the additional children expected as a result of house building.
- 3.45 Whilst pupil forecasting is not an exact science, the Council is confident that its methodology used to predict pupil numbers is accurate. When estimating the need for places in September 2018 the Council calculated there would be 2,520 places required and the Council has received 2,527 applications. It is the change in source data that has generated revised pupil numbers.
- 3.46 As Table 11 below indicates, the overall response to the consultation on secondary school catchment areas was not supportive of the proposal to make changes. Just 18.8% of respondents tended to or strongly supported the proposals. More than 90% of all those who responded and who lived in the four affected areas tended to or strongly disagreed. A similar number of respondents (174 in total), living in the Varndean and Dorothy Stringer schools catchment area (but not in the affected area), agreed with the proposals as disagreed with the proposals. Themes that emerged through the consultation in relation to the proposals included:
- The splitting of communities

- Pupils unable to attend secondary school with friends made in primary school
- Additional distance to travel to schools
- A temporary change now and more change to follow causing uncertainty
- Explore the additional places offered by the existing schools
- Proposals did not offer choice with some catchment areas only having one school in it

Table 11



- 3.47 This is not a complete list and many respondents raised specific issues about how the proposed changes affected them directly.
- 3.48 With the majority of respondents opposed to the changes being proposed, together with the change in pupil forecasts indicating a reduction in the number of pupils requiring a school place and the willingness of some schools to provide additional places it is recommended that no change is made to the existing secondary school catchment areas.
- 3.49 It is proposed that Patcham High School increase their PAN permanently by 10 pupils to 225 pupils and both Dorothy Stringer and Varndean schools admit an additional 30 pupils into Year 7 on a temporary basis in 2019 and 2020.

- 3.50 No change to catchment areas and the provision of an additional 100 places in 2019 still means that not all pupils living in catchment areas will receive a place in their catchment school(s).
- 3.51 Whilst recognising there are views and opinions recorded in the consultation that supported the proposed change to catchment areas, the Council has taken careful consideration of the range and strength of feeling within communities. In making no change to catchment areas the Council will still be able to ensure it meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places for all pupils who require one. However this does not constitute a guarantee that a child will be offered a place at its catchment area school(s).
- 3.52 The Council is also mindful that as a result of making no change to catchment areas there will continue to be some catchment areas where there are fewer pupils than places available. Specifically the catchment areas of Longhill High School and both the Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and the Portslade Aldridge Community Academy.
- 3.53 Encouragingly, during the consultation many positive comments were made regarding the provision of education available at these schools and across the city.
- 3.54 The proposed changes to the catchment areas would have brought an overall reduction in the number of surplus places in the catchment areas but would not have eliminated this matter entirely. The Council will continue to support these schools to ensure that whilst they manage the impact of surplus places there is no deterioration in standards of education.

#### **The oversubscription priorities for community secondary schools, BACA and PACA**

- 3.55 Responses to the consultation on the oversubscription priority of secondary schools broadly raised points regarding the need and relevance of a sibling link, the implementation of the category two priority relating to compelling medical or other exceptional reasons and the definition of children who were previously in the care of a local authority but have ceased to be so.
- 3.56 It had been proposed to create a sibling link priority should there have been changes to catchment areas. As this report is not recommending a change to catchment areas it is proposed not to change the current admission priorities.
- 3.57 The Council has noted a recent letter sent to all local authorities and admission authorities from Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards dated 4 December 2017 in which he encourages admission authorities, when setting admission arrangements, to use their discretion and give the highest priority for admission into school children who were previously in care outside of England. Admission authorities that have already started consulting are encouraged to introduce the change in future years.
- 3.58 The council is sympathetic to the intention to recognise the vulnerability of these children and the intention to place their situation on an equal footing for the purposes of admission to school and notes the wording of the council's

admission priorities does not preclude consideration of those children previously in care outside of England.

### **The oversubscription priorities for community infant, junior and primary schools and City Academy Whitehawk**

- 3.59 Fewer than 50 responses were received in relation to the oversubscription priority for primary schools. Similar responses to those outlined in paragraph 3.55 were made. It is recommended not to change the admission priorities from those currently established.

### **The ‘relevant area’ for consultation**

- 3.60 Fewer than 60 responses were received regarding this element of the consultation. The majority of the responses were not specifically related to the ‘relevant area’ which is the area which the Local Authority uses when consulting on admissions arrangements. It is currently defined as the area within the Brighton and Hove city boundaries and no change was proposed to the relevant area for September 2019. It is recommended that no change is made to the ‘relevant area as currently stated.

### **The Published Admission Numbers of all other community schools, BACA, PACA and City Academy Whitehawk**

- 3.61 Fewer than 70 responses were received to this element of the consultation. Some specific suggestions were made and there were a number of responses relating to reducing the PAN in the bigger primary schools thereby allowing other schools to have a “fairer share” of the children.
- 3.62 No other governing body submitted a request to reduce their PAN and therefore it is recommended to make no further adjustments to PANs other than those referred to earlier in this report.

### **The co-ordinated admission schemes for 2019/20**

- 3.63 Fewer than 40 responses were received regarding this matter. The majority of responses were not specifically relevant to the schemes and where individual points were made regarding the co-ordinated scheme these do not indicate a need to amend the proposals and therefore it is recommended that no change is made to these schemes.

## **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Council proposed to make changes to the PAN of five primary schools and the secondary school catchment areas. This report recommends that as a result of the responses received to the consultation no change is made to the PAN of Benfield Primary School and Hertford Infant School and there is no change to secondary school catchment areas. Accordingly it is proposed to adopt the admission arrangements as set out in appendix 7. These arrangements are unchanged to those adopted in 2018/19, with the exception of the revised PANs for those schools set out in recommendations 2.1-2.3, 2.6 and 2.7 of this report.

- 4.2 The council has carefully considered the responses received and has determined that it would not be appropriate to continue with all the proposals as originally set out.
- 4.3 The council believes that with the support of the governing bodies to reduce the PAN of three primary schools the reduction remains an appropriate decision to make. This is supported by the revised projections which indicate that there will be a large number of surplus primary school places in the foreseeable future.
- 4.4 The revision of pupil number forecasts generated by the revised October School Census data, coupled with the revised GP registration data indicates that pupils have left the city in the last 12 months. This had not been anticipated and does not support the continuation of proposals to change secondary school catchment areas when consideration is given to the opportunity to provide additional places in some of the city's secondary schools.

## **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Following recommendation from the CYP&S committee in September 2017 a 7 week public consultation was held between 2 October 2017 and 19 November 2017. The Council's Have your Say consultation portal hosted an online response form and 13 public meetings were also held during the consultation period.
- 5.2 In total 907 responses were received online, informal minutes of the public meetings were recorded and any feedback forms left were collected and analysed.
- 5.3 The Council promoted the public consultation and all of the city's maintained schools were asked to make parents aware of the consultation through their usual parent communication channels.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Prior to the consultation the most up to date data available indicated that 126 pupils would not be able to be accommodated in their catchment area school(s) in September 2019. In 2020 it was forecast that 138 pupils would not be accommodated in their catchment area.
- 6.2 In order to alleviate the issue of catchment areas failing to catch in the 2019 and 2020 admission rounds the council proposed to review catchment areas. It was hoped that this would reduce the uncertainties experienced by parents as a result of the random allocation tie-break procedure.
- 6.3 Since the consultation was launched the PAN of Blatchington Mill has been determined permanently at 330 pupils, 30 pupils more than originally accounted for and it is recommended that the Patcham High School PAN is raised by 10 pupils.
- 6.4 New pupil number projections using updated information only available after the time period of consultation afforded under the statutory guidance (School Admission Code) indicate that the number of pupils not able to be offered their

catchment school in 2019 (having taken account of the rise in the PANs outlined above) is forecast to be 69 pupils. In 2020 it is forecast to be 93. Therefore the estimates have significantly reduced.

- 6.5 When this is coupled with the offer of Dorothy Stringer High School and Vardean School to admit temporarily an additional 60 pupils, in total, in 2019 and 2020 there no longer remains a compelling reason to change catchment areas. However by making no change there will still be some uncertainty experienced by parents where there are catchment areas with more pupils than places available.
- 6.6 Whilst pupil forecasting is not an exact science, the methodology used to predict pupil numbers has shown significant accuracy in relation to admission is 2018. The Council estimated the need for 2,520 places and 2,527 applications have been received. It is the change in source data that has generated revised pupil numbers.
- 6.7 In relation to primary school PANs, the range and extent of responses against the proposals to reduce the PAN of Benfield Primary and Hertford Infant schools together with the lack of support from the governing body of each school informed the decision not to continue with the recommendation to reduce their PANs by one form of entry each.
- 6.8 It is therefore proposed to make no changes to existing school admission arrangements, with the exception of the revised PANs for those schools set out in recommendations 2.1-2.3, 2.6 and 2.7 to this report. The Council will continue to consider organisational changes that will address the surplus of primary school places forecast for the foreseeable future.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Schools are funded via a local authority formula, which is largely based on pupil numbers (based on their October census for the following financial year) and other elements for deprivation, attainment, lump sum and other premises allocations. School admission arrangements will directly effect the number of pupils each school will have, at each October census, and this will therefore effect the overall budget available to them.
- 7.2 For those schools that are expanding their PAN, growth funding will be set aside in the schools block of the DSG, to help them plan for the additional pupil increase in the financial year. The additional pupils will lead to an increase in budget share as well as additional costs for new teachers etc. For those three schools whose PAN will fall, they will have time to plan for the reduction in budget and associated reduction in costs. Each individual school will need to plan their budget based on the funding available to them in the relevant financial year.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore*

*Date: 02/01/18*

Legal Implications:

- 7.3 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education and Skills Act 2008, requires admission authorities to determine their school admission arrangements by 28 February of the school year ('the determination year') immediately before the year when school places are offered. Where changes are proposed the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.
- 7.4 Regulation 17(2)(c) of the 2012 Regulations requires admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements on or before 28 February in the determination year. The Council is also required to formulate and consult on a scheme for co-ordinating admission arrangements for all maintained schools within its area each academic year.
- 7.5 Admission arrangements must conform to the School Admissions Code which sets out acceptable and unacceptable admission arrangements and priorities. Any person or body who considers admission arrangements for either maintained schools or an Academy to be unlawful or contrary to the provisions of the Admissions Code may make an objection to the Schools Adjudicator. Any objections must be made by 15 May.
- 7.6 The Council, as admissions authority for maintained community schools, is able to agree to the admission of pupils above the published admission number on a temporary basis, i.e. a 'bulge class'. Such admissions do not constitute a permanent increase in the published admission number of a school.
- 7.7 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).
- 7.8 If the committee recommends no change to the current catchment areas for secondary schools there will be no need for the admission arrangements to be referred to Full Council for decision. CYPS committee has the authority to determine any changes to Published Admission Numbers of schools without reference to Full Council.

*Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston*

*Date: 02/01/18*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.9 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 discriminating admission priorities or planning processes. The city council and own admission authority school's governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice with regard to equalities issues as described in the School Admissions Code.

- 7.10 Making no change to catchment areas and reducing the number of pupils likely to not receive a place in their catchment area school means a formal EIA is not appropriate.
- 7.11 Changes to the Primary PANs are being proposed at three schools who have not been oversubscribed and where it is not anticipated that pupils will be without a place in one of their three preferred schools, or not be in receipt of a reasonable offer of a school place from the Local Authority. Therefore a formal EIA is not appropriate.

**Sustainability Implications:**

- 7.12 School admission arrangements are intended so far as it is possible to provide pupils with local places where they have asked for them. 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.
- 7.13 Making no change to catchment areas and reducing the number of pupils likely to not receive a place in their catchment area school means there is a reduced sustainability impact than had been anticipated.
- 7.14 Reducing the PAN of three primary schools is not anticipated to create any sustainability impacts or implications.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Various implications
2. Summary of consultation responses
3. Primary pupil projections
4. Secondary pupil projections – existing catchment areas
5. Pupil number forecast from additional development
6. Published Admission Numbers 2019-20
7. Admission Arrangements 2019-20
8. Catchment map
9. 2019-20 Secondary Coordinated Scheme
10. 2019-20 Primary Coordinated Scheme
11. 2018-19 In Year Coordinated Scheme

**Documents in Members' Rooms**

1. Consultation responses from online response form and responses from public meetings

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.