

## DEVON LOCAL ADMISSIONS FORUM

25 April 2007

### Present

#### Devon County Council

Councillors Way (Chairman) and Mrs Spence

#### Devon Schools

Mr Kirk

#### Foundation Schools

Mr Sindall

#### Church of England Diocesan Board of Education

Mrs Mabin

#### Community Representatives

Mr Duttson, Mrs M Strudwick and Mr Rogers

#### Plymouth City Council

Ms D Wallace

#### Torbay Council

Ms K Bailey

#### Somerset County Council

Mr Pollock

#### Apologies for Absence

*Mrs Turner (Cornwall County Council), Mr Shilvock and Mrs Nield (Devon Schools), Councillors Bray, Pennington and Yabsley (Devon County Council)*

### **37** Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 30 November 2006 were signed as a correct record.

### **38** Urgent Items

The Forum noted that Lisa Boon (Schools Access Services Manager, Children and Young People's Services Directorate) was currently on long term sickness absence and asked that its best wishes for a speedy recovery be conveyed to her.

### **39** Proposed Admissions Arrangements for 2008/09

The Forum considered the report of the Secretary ([CY/07/18](#)) on the outcome of consultations with community and voluntary controlled schools on proposed admission arrangements for 2008/09.

The Director of Children and Young People's Services confirmed that the proposed admission arrangements for 2008/9 did not envisage any material change or significant variation from the current years arrangements.

Statutory guidance required all admitting authorities to consult annually upon all aspects of their admission arrangements by the beginning of March in the year preceding the admission year and normally to determine the arrangements in April having taken into account the responses received. The County Council had received 36 responses (30 primary, 6 secondary) to the consultation the majority of which related to Planned

Admission Numbers. Appendix B to the report set out the proposed response to the representations received which would be recommended to the County Council, the majority of which had been accepted.

## **RESOLVED**

(a) that the proposed admission arrangements for 2008/09 consulted upon by the County Council as admitting authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools be noted;

(b) that the proposed Planned Admission Numbers and designated areas be recommended for approval by the County Council's Executive.

### **40 Proposed Admissions Arrangements for Voluntary Aided/Foundation Schools 2008/9**

The Committee noted the report of the Secretary ([CY/07/19](#)) on the outcome of consultations on proposed admission arrangements for 2008/9 carried out by the County Council on behalf of Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools. This process had been carried out electronically via the County Council's website. Governing Bodies would need to consider responses, including those from the County Council, and determine their admission arrangements, which again would be notified to consultees via the Council's website. It was anticipated that the Council was not likely to object to any of the proposed arrangements this year as only minor comments had been made although a final decision would only be taken upon receipt of determined admission arrangements.

### **41 Admissions Update 2007/08**

The Forum noted the report of the Secretary ([CY/07/20](#)) updating it on the admissions process for September 2007 (and January 2007 for primary schools).

Letters notifying parents of allocated secondary school places had been despatched on the national allocation day, 1 March 2007. Early indications were that 93.65% of parents had received a place in their highest ranked school and 98.5% had been offered a place at the first, second or third preferences. 57% of applications had been made via the online facility

Letters for all primary schools, including Voluntary Aided, had been despatched on 30 March 2007 notifying parents of the places offered. 98.7% of parents received an allocation at one of their preferred schools; 96.7% received their highest ranked preference. 71% of applications had been made via the online facility.

Members highlighted the need for a detailed analysis to be undertaken of the impact of the economic growth/development in the area to the east of Exeter on population and availability of school places and also the related impact of cross boundary movements from Dorset and Somerset. The desirability of a mechanism for Secondary Heads to regularly discuss future trends in population/admissions with the LEA was also acknowledged and the Director of Children and Young People's Services undertook to pursue this.

The Forum congratulated the County Council's Admissions Staff for their success in administering the complex arrangements and managing the heavy and intensive work loads involved on behalf of all maintained schools in Devon.

### **42 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 5 July 2007 at 10.30 am at County hall, Exeter.

The meeting started at 10.00am and finished at 11.00am