

**Decision Maker:** **EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** **10 March 2015**

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** **ANNUAL ADMISSIONS REPORT**

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**Chief Officer:** Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

**Ward:** (All Wards);

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To provide an annual update on the administration of school admissions and highlight issues arising from the 2015 rounds of primary (reception year) and secondary school (year 7) applications.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 That the Education PDS Committee notes progress in the administration of applications for school places
- 2.3 That the Education PDS Committee notes the number of primary and secondary admissions received for reception and year 7 intakes in September 2015 and the actions taken to the address continued increase in demand for school places.

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre:
  4. Total current budget for this head: £
  5. Source of funding:
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
- 

### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Section 14 Education Act 1996 as Amended Education Act 2002
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places available for local children and young people of statutory school age. The service acts on behalf of children, parents and families to ensure that all schools operate according to the law around admissions and that all families are treated fairly and equitably.
- 3.2 The Admissions Service operates the co-ordinated Pan-London Co-ordinated admissions scheme for entrance to reception, Year 7 and University Technical Colleges (UTCs). The Service also manages admissions at other points of entry including KS1 to KS2 and KS3 to KS4 transitions as well as in-year admissions for most schools.
- 3.3 This is the eleventh year of the Pan London Co-ordinated Admission Scheme for reception and year 7 places. This requires parents to complete one common application for listing six preferences.
- 3.4 Over the past 3 years the Council has promoted the use of on-line applications for applying for school places although the local authority remains legally obliged to provide paper application forms where required. We are now one of the better performing London councils for the uptake of online admissions

<b>Online applications 2013-15</b>			
	2013	2014	2015
Primary	2430 = 63%	3840 = 96%	3840 = 96%
Secondary	1541 = 49%	3115 = 94%	3344 = 95%

### 3.5 Primary applications

- 3.5.1 Since 2014 there has been a significant increase in the number of applications received by the Council for primary school places. Although the Council has created 2,165 more places in Bromley primary schools and 2 Free Schools that have opened, this increase in demand has contributed to a slight decline in the number of applicants receiving their first or second preference school and an increase in the number of applicants directed to a school not listed as one of their preferences.
3. 5.2 The increase in demand for schools can be demonstrated by the reduction in the proximity area from which school recruit. A number of Bromley schools now have a proximity of less than 0.3 miles and in 2014 Valley Primary School recruited from only 0.17 miles.

<b>Primary Preferences 2010-14 (Bromley residents)</b>						
Preference	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 <sup>st</sup>	79%	79%	78%	76%	77%	Not yet processed
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10%	10%	9%	9%	9%	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8%	5%	4%	4%	5%	

4-6 <sup>th</sup>	n/a*	3%	5%	6%	4%	
Directed	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	
Number of applications	3,612	3,600	3,700	3,820	4,058	4,010

\*Only 3 preferences were permitted in 2010

### 3.6 Secondary applications

3.6.1 Over the past 5 years numbers for admission to secondary school in year 7 in Bromley fell from 2010 to 2011 but have been increasing since 2012 and are now above those experienced at the beginning of the period. The same period has witnessed an increase in the percentage of applicants getting their first choice school.

<b>Secondary Preferences 2010-14 (Bromley residents)</b>						
Preference	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 <sup>st</sup>	68%	65%	69%	75%	74%	72%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	17%	16%	17%	14%	13%	13%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6%	8%	7%	5%	5%	5%
4-6 <sup>th</sup>	7%	7%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Directed	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	5%
Number of applications	3,306	3,168	3,241	3,127	3,314	3,518

### 3.7 In Year Admissions

3.7.1 There has been an increase in the number of pupils moving into Bromley without a school place over the past three years. Managing in-year admissions has become more difficult as the number of surplus primary school places has increased.

<b>Number of pupils moving into Bromley without a school place</b>		
2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
1,075	1,086	1,157

3.7.2 The number of in-year admissions received between 1 September 2014 and 1 January 2015 is 610. Over this period the number of applications for pupils moving into Bromley making applications have increased 34%.

### 3.8 2015 Admissions Round

- 3.8.1 There has been an increase of 204 secondary in-borough applications as part of the 2015 secondary admissions round. The most acute need has been in the north west of the borough and bulge classes have been added at Bishop Justus, Langley Park School for Boys and Ravensbourne to meet this demand.
- 3.8.2 The number of applications received for reception intake to primary school for 2015 are similar to those for 2014. Until, the applications have been processed we will not know the exact impact on demand for places. We have a number of primary schools that would be prepared to take a bulge class if required, but whether this will satisfy demand will depend on where demand is located.

	2014			2015			% Increase
	Bromley	Out-borough	Total	Bromley	Out-borough	Total	
Primary	4,058	540	4,598	4,010*	632	4,642	1%
Secondary	3314	2,106	5,420	3,500	2,105	5,605	3.4%

\*doesn't include late applications still to be processed

#### 4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The need to ensure sufficient school places is a priority within the Council's Strategy "Building a Better Bromley" and contributes to the strategy to achieve the status of an Excellent Council. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Education Portfolio Plan, particular the outcome "promote educational opportunity in the borough ensuring all families have a choice of good and outstanding schools".

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Authority is required to operate schemes to co-ordinate admissions to primary and secondary schools in line with the requirements of the Education Act 2002 and subsequent regulations.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial and Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]