

**Meeting of Executive Members and Children's Services      19 July 2007**  
**Advisory Panel**

**Report of the Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services**

**Admission Limits for Primary and Secondary Schools in York from  
September 2008**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek the approval of the Executive Members in respect of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2008.

**Background**

2. Admission limits are important because they relate to the maximum number of children who are able to enter schools (reception in Primary and Infant schools, Year 3 in Junior schools, and Years 7 and 12 in Secondary schools).
3. It is the duty of the admissions authority to carry out a consultation each year on admission limits and arrangements. In the case of maintained schools, the admission authority is the Local Authority (LA), whilst in Voluntary Aided schools it is the governing body of the school in question.
4. In their role as admissions authorities, LAs must also consult other LAs with whom they share a border. For City of York LA, these are East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council.
5. The new School Admissions Code of Practice, which came into force 27 February 2007, requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements should be made by 15 April 2007 for the academic year beginning in September 2008.
6. Due to the timetable of meetings and cancellation of the May Executive Member and Advisory Panel (EMAP) meeting due to the local elections, it was not possible to report within the statutory time limit. Therefore, officers proceeded to advertise the admission limits as required by regulation. A copy of the notice, published on 2 May 2007, is included as Annex A. The Executive Members are, therefore, asked to approve retrospectively the admission limits agreed by the Local Admissions Forum (LAF).

## **Consultation with other Local Authorities**

7. Both East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire LAs were consulted and had no comments to make on City of York's proposed admission limits.

## **Consultation with Schools and the Local Admissions Forum (LAF)**

8. The LA undertook an informal round of consultation in the autumn term 2006 in order to enter into early discussions about any proposed changes to admission limits. In the spring term of 2007, schools were formally consulted on admission limits and arrangements for admissions in September 2008.
9. The responses of schools were reported to and debated at a meeting of the Local Admissions Forum (LAF) in March 2007.

## **Options**

10. This is a Statutory requirement

## **Analysis**

11. The list of school responses and LA recommendations agreed by the Forum is shown in Annex B. This shows admission limits for primary and secondary schools, and sixth form admissions.
12. The LA engaged in discussion with the four York schools offering post-16 education during the latter half of 2006, with a view to seeking agreement on admission limits for sixth forms.
13. Sixth form admission limits apply only to the numbers of children coming into a sixth form from outside the school. The new Admissions Code of Practice states:  
*"Where a secondary school operates a sixth form and admits children from other schools at age 16, for instance, an admission number will be required for year 12 as well as for the main year or years in which children join the lower school."* (para 1.20)
14. Historic patterns of year 12 admissions were looked at for each sixth form school. Impact upon the school's Net Capacity and year 7 also had to be considered. A suitable admission limit was derived during this process and discussed with schools.

## **Corporate Priorities**

15. The setting of admission limits forms an integral part of the Local Authority's effective planning of school places. This helps the authority achieve its priority to "Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects"

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

16. There are no direct financial implications for schools or the Local Authority resulting from determination of admission limits for September 2008.

### **Human Resources (HR)**

17. There are no HR implications.

### **Equalities**

18. There are no specific implications relating to equalities.

### **Legal**

19. Section 142 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 requires schools to have an admission limit for each relevant age group.
20. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (Statutory Instrument (SI) 1999/126), as amended by SI 2002/2896 and SI 2007/194, states that admissions authorities must have regard to the capacity assessment of the school when setting admission limits.
21. Section 1 of the SSFA 1998 requires that any admission number set must be compatible with the duty to comply with the infant class size limit.
22. Sections 89 and 89A of the SSFA 1998 state that the admission authorities for schools with a sixth form must consult on and determine the arrangements they propose to use to allocate places in year 12 at the same time as other admission arrangements.
23. Section 89(2) of the SSFA 1998 requires that admissions authorities are required to complete consultation on admission arrangements by 1 March, and determine their arrangements by 15 April in each calendar year for the following school year. These dates are prescribed in The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/ 2896 and SI 2007/194.

### **Crime and Disorder**

24. There are no issues relating to crime and disorder.

### **Information Technology (IT)**

25. There are no issues relating to IT.

### **Property**

26. There are no direct issues relating to property

### **Other**

27. There are no other known issues

## RISK MANAGEMENT

28. Non-compliance with statutory regulations governing school admissions could have a detrimental effect on the management of school admissions and appeals procedures.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

29. Executive Members are asked to approve the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2008 as detailed in Annexes A and B.

Reason: To comply with Statutory requirements

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**  **Date** 4 July 2007

Patrick Scott, Director of Learning, Culture and  
Children's Services

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## Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Legal  
Suzan Hemingway  
Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal  
1004

**Wards Affected:** *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

**All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

## Background Papers:

### Annexes

**Annex A – Public notice of admissions**

**Annex B – Complete list of proposed admission limits for September 2008**