

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

Report To: Education & Communities Date: 06 May 2014

Committee

Report By: Corporate Director Education, Report No: EDUCOM/41/14/WB

Communities & Organisational

Development

Contact Officer: Wilma Bain, Head of Education Contact No: 01475 712824

Subject: Admissions and Placing Requests for Primary 1 and Secondary 1

pupils in School Session 2014 / 15

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with the details of the decisions agreed by the Pupil Placement Panel relating to Admissions and Placing Requests for school session 2014 / 15 affecting Primary 1 and Secondary 1 pupils.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The annual exercise has been carried out to identify the number of children from their defined catchment areas who will start Primary 1 and Secondary 1 in August 2014, together with those for whom placing requests were made.
- 2.2 This process consists of determining the allocation of places in accordance with the Council's Admissions and Placing Request Policy together with the policy on class sizes in Primary 1.
- 2.3 The pupil placement panel was set up and comprised the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Head of Legal and Property Services, Head of Property Assets and Facilities Management, Head of Education, Quality Improvement Manager and Policy & Commissioning Team Leader.
- 2.4 The Head of Education made recommendations which were scrutinised by the pupil placement panel. The decisions are detailed in appendix 1 and 2.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the Committee notes the admissions and placing requests granted for the school session 2014 / 15.

Patricia Cassidy
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Admission and Placing Request policy was approved by the Committee in November 2009.
- 4.2 Following the pupil placement exercise, it was determined that all defined catchment pupils could be accommodated in their catchment school.
- 4.3 We received 140 placing requests for primary pupils to attend schools other than their catchment school (see appendix 1). 87 placing requests were received for secondary pupils (see appendix 2).
- 4.4 After reviewing the impact of the placing requests on Primary Schools, it was determined that all placing requests could be granted.
- 4.5 Following the pupil placement exercise in Secondary Schools, it was concluded that all defined catchment pupils could be accommodated. On consideration of all placing requests, it was identified that 1 school (Notre Dame High School) was over subscribed.
- 4.6 The Council's priorities for placing requests were applied and the result was as follows:

Notre Dame High School

After accommodating all defined catchment area children, there were 31 places available. 35 placing requests were received. 13 places were allocated to siblings and the remaining 18 were allocated in accordance with distance from the school. The remaining 4 placing requests were refused in accordance with council policy.

- 4.7 The Pupil Placement Panel was convened on 2 April 2014 to scrutinise the recommendations of the Head of Education and to ensure the criteria had been applied appropriately.
- 4.8 The Panel, having considered all recommendations, decided that the criteria had been properly applied and agreed the recommendations made by the Head of Education.
- 4.9 The decisions were intimated to parents in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 April 2014. The parents of those pupils who were refused a place have the option to appeal the decisions to the Education Appeals Committee and, if unsuccessful, to appeal further to the Sheriff.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

5.1 There are no financial implications.

<u>Legal</u>

5.2 There are no legal implications.

HR

5.3 There are no HR implications.

Equalities

5.4 Equality is embedded in our Admissions and Placing Request policy.

Repopulation

5.5 There are no repopulation implications/issues arising from this report.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Pupil Placement Panel.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The admissions and placing requests granted for school session 2014/15 are noted by the Committee.

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Primary School pupils will attend if placing requests granted

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KEY TO THE COLUMNS

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