

## ITEM 4

Commenced: 10.34am

End: 10.56am

### SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FORUM 12 MARCH 2012

Present:	David Keys	Brackensdale Junior School Authority Governor (Chair)
	Alison Brown	The Derby Diocesan Board of Education
	Diane Whitehead	Derby City Council Admissions Manager
	Robin Constable	Derby City Council Solicitor

#### 06/11 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Elizabeth Coffey, Fiona McLaughlin, Jean Sands, John Holmes, Kathryn Hardy and Kathy Mayer.

It was reported that Carran Stevenson, vice chair of the forum, had vacated office as a representative on the forum in accordance with regulation 9(3)(a) the School Admissions (Local Authority Reports and Admission Forums) (England) Regulations 2008. Carran had resigned from her position as chair of governors at Meadow Farm Community Primary School.

#### 07/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 08/11 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

#### 09/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2011 were declared a correct record, subject to the addition of Alison Brown's apologies.

#### 10/11 Co-ordinated Admission Schemes 2013-14

The Forum received a report from the Admissions Manager, on behalf of the Strategic Director of Children and Young People. The Admissions Manager informed the forum that the council had concluded its consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and relevant area for 2013 to 2014 and that no responses had been received.

The forum discussed the merit of the officer's proposal to retain its function as a voluntary consultative body. The Admissions manager suggested that, should the Council Cabinet be minded to retain the forum, its operation would be reviewed annually. The forum felt that it could continue to provide an informed contribution in relation to admissions arrangements. The forum recommended that the advanced scheduling of meeting dates would encourage increased attendance at meetings.

The Admissions Manager reported that recommendation 2.3 would address the problems caused by the submission of fraudulent or misleading applications.

The forum was advised that recommendation 2.4 arose from a protocol-based decision which was challenged. The barrister consulted about the matter found that the protocol did not assist the council's decision-making process; rather it fettered the council's discretion. Subsequent to that, the Admissions Manager had met the Solicitor to discuss the advice received, together with the new admission and admission appeals code. It was felt that the protocol no longer served any useful purpose.

The Admissions Manager informed the forum that the local education authority had agreed to increase the published admission number at Derby Moor Community Sports College Trust to 266. This would apply from September 2012 and affect year groups 7 – 11. The decision would increase the school's overall capacity by 70 students, more specifically 14 students per year group. The manager confirmed that other admission arrangements remained the same, with the exception of the oversubscription criteria, which would be amended to reflect the new school situation. The amended oversubscription criteria would be available to appealing parents prior to 1 April 2012. It was reported that the agreement was made following the Department for Education's initiative to increase choice and diversity for parents, through allowing popular schools to increase their admission limit (including pre-determined) without the need for consultation, where the capacity of the school had been increased accordingly.

**Resolved to recommend to the Council Cabinet:**

- 1. to note and comply with the revised regulations relating to School Admissions which came into force on 01 February 2012 for school entry in September 2013;**
- 2. to agree the retention of the Admissions Forum as the Council's consultative body to advise on the admission arrangements for all admission authorities in the Derby area, and to help ensure that they are fair, equitable and extend choice to parents;**
- 3. to agree revised arrangements required by the Council to determine residency within a school's catchment area in order to prevent school places being gained by fraudulent or intentionally misleading applications; and**
- 4. to agree the withdrawal of Derby City's Protocol relating to infant class size and looked after children to reflect legislative changes to the School Admissions Code and legal advice received on the matter .**

MINUTES END