

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive Member for Children's Services
Date: 10th August 2018
Report for: Decision
Report of: Acting Director Children's Services

Report Title

Approval to consult on changes to the Templemoor and Worthington catchment areas.

Summary

This report proposes that the LA initiate consultation on a proposal to merge the Templemoor and Worthington catchment areas into a shared area in order to prioritise the limited number of places available in the area for children resident in the Templemoor and Worthington catchment areas.

Recommendation(s)

The Executive Member is asked to agree to consult on the proposal to merge the Templemoor and Worthington catchment areas into a shared area in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Marilyn Golding
Extension: 1853

Background Papers:None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	To meet the Council's general duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	
Financial	None
Legal Implications:	Compliance with the School Admissions Code and
Equality/Diversity Implications	There are no Equality/Diversity Implications from this proposal.
Sustainability Implications	There are no sustainability implications from this

	proposal.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	None
Risk Management Implications	None
Health & Wellbeing Implications	None
Health and Safety Implications	None

Key Decision No

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? – N/A

Finance Officer Clearance GB

Legal Officer Clearance PD



[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE *(electronic)*... ..

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a general duty under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient school places to accommodate families living in the area. To meet this duty the Council employs a patchwork of catchment areas covering the whole of the Trafford area. These areas are usually named after the relevant community school. However, the total provision of school places in each of these areas is made up from places in community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided schools and academies, although it is recognised that faith schools may give priority to children of their faith before other children that live in the catchment area. Although it cannot be guaranteed, it is the LA's intention is to ensure sufficient places in each area to meet the needs of all the children resident in the area at one of the schools serving that area.
- 1.2 Oversubscription in the Sale East area continues to be an issue for families living in the area at the normal point of entry (reception class) and for those families moving into the area with children already of school age. In order to provide additional places the LA has undertaken a programme of school expansions in the area. Brooklands Primary School (20 places), Lime Tree Primary School (30 places), Springfield Primary School (30 places), and Worthington Primary School (5 places) have all undergone physical expansion to create a total of 85 additional places in each new year group.
- 1.3 In the current admission round, every reception class place in the Sale East area is allocated and both Templemoor and Worthington have waiting lists for admission to their reception classes. In the Foundation, Key Stage 1 classes; that is the current reception class through to end of Year 2, every school in the Sale East area is full and 5 classes contain more than 30 pupils under the allowed exceptions to the Infant Class Regulations.
- 1.4 Therefore the LA continues to consider schools for expansion in accordance with the sufficiency of places in each area and the feasibility of the schools available. Any

additional places created in the combined area would be prioritised for those children living in the combined catchment area.

- 1.5 Moorlands Junior School and Templemoor Infant School are in the Templemoor catchment area and Worthington Primary School is in the Worthington catchment area.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To merge the Templemoor and Worthington catchment areas into a shared area in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code and The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012.

3. Other Options

- 3.1 Do nothing. The current available places will continue to be allocated in accordance with the existing arrangements. This may disadvantage a Trafford resident when an application is considered for Worthington Primary School or Templemoor Infant School alongside a non-Trafford applicant. Any new places created with Basic Need Funding would also be allocated in accordance with the existing arrangements. This would not be an efficient use of the resources provided to create sufficient school places in the Trafford area and would continue the disadvantage to Trafford residents.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Catchment areas form the basis of Trafford's admission arrangements. Section 1.42 of the School Admissions Code requires that when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority (the LA in the case of Templemoor Infant School, Moorlands Junior School and Worthington Primary School) must first carry out consultation on the changes.
- 4.2 The 2019 Admission Arrangements have already been determined and cannot be varied. The next opportunity to vary the arrangements would be for the 2020 admission round. The consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2019.
- 4.3 The LA must consult with:
 - a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
 - d) the governing bodies of the 3 schools; and
 - e) Manchester Local Authority

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To ensure that the places currently available at the 3 schools, and any additional places that may be created in the future, are prioritised for local children. This will allow the LA to meet its duty under the Act and will allow all children resident in the

proposed area to have catchment area priority at both schools. This will increase the options available to local children in an area of high oversubscription.