

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 September 2011	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		School Admissions Review – Covering Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the review of School Admissions undertaken by the education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee (attached as appendix 1 to this report), and asks Councillor Catherine McDonald lead cabinet member, to bring back a report to cabinet, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee, by 22 November 2011.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee decided to conduct a review into school admissions on 12 July 2010. The focus was on reviewing the clarity of information available alongside reviewing support networks to help parents negotiate the system.
3. The sub-committee chose this subject because of concerns about the complexity of the schools' admissions process. It was noted that even parents and carers with a lot of information could find the process difficult to navigate and stressful.
4. The committee took evidence from officers, consulted the School Admissions Forum, asked the Southwark Governors Association for their views, visited the Parent Participation Forum and distributed a questionnaire to parents and carers; 79 of whom responded. The results of this questionnaire are enclosed as appendix 2.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Consultation with Parent Participation Forum (PPF)	Scrutiny Team Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Julie Timbrell Scrutiny project manager
Southwark Governors Association (SGA) submission and School governor interview	and published on ModernGov for the 14 March 2011 committee meeting.	Tel: 020 7525 0514
Consultation with the School Admissions Forum		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	School Admissions Review
Appendix 2	Secondary school admission questionnaire results

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 September 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	N/a	N/a
Finance Director	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	N/a	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	8 September 2011	