

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: December 15 2009	Meeting Name: Executive
Report title:		Nominations to Panels, Boards and Forums 2009-10 – Admissions Forum	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the executive appoint two local authority representatives to the Admissions Forum for the remainder of the 2009-10 year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As part of the annual nominations process to panels, boards and forums, the executive considered nominations to the Admissions Forum at its meeting on June 23 2009. The executive appointed three local authority representatives (Councillors Toby Eckersley, Nick Stanton and Veronica Ward) to the Admissions Forum for 2009-10 based on the number of nominations that were submitted in the 2008-09 year.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. It has since transpired that the revised School Admissions Code (February 2009) made changes to the size, role and membership of the Admissions Forum and now limits the overall number of representatives to a maximum of 20 and local authority representatives to no more than two. The executive is therefore asked to reconsider its nominations and appoint up to two representatives, instead of three in order to comply with the requirements of the revised code.
4. It is for the executive to agree the nomination of places to panels, boards and forums in connection with the functions that are the responsibility of the executive (i.e. housing, education, social serves, regeneration etc).

Statutory role of admissions forums

5. The statutory role of the Admissions Forum as set out in the Schools Admissions Code is 'to have a key role in ensuring a fair admissions system that promotes social equity'. Part of the role is to advise local authorities and admission authorities on matters relating to school admissions.
6. Admission Forums must:
 - a) consider how well existing and proposed admission arrangements serve the interests of children and parents within the area of the local authority;
 - b) promote agreement on admission issues;

- c) review the comprehensiveness, effectiveness within the local context, and accessibility of advice and guidance for parents by the local authority, both through the published composite prospectus and the delivery of Choice Advice within the area of the forum;
- d) consider the effectiveness of the authority's proposed co-ordinated admission arrangements, and advise on whether the authority's proposed co-ordinated admission arrangements differ substantially from the previous year;
- e) consider the means by which admissions processes might be improved and how actual admissions relate to the admission numbers published.
- f) Monitor the admission of children who arrive in the authority's area outside a normal round with a view to promoting arrangements for the fair distribution of such children among local schools, taking account of any preference expressed.
- g) Promote the arrangements for children with special educational needs, children in care and children who have been excluded from school;
- h) Monitor the effectiveness of local authority Fair Access Protocols; and,
- i) Consider any other admissions issues that arise.

Community impact statement

- 8. There are no specific community impact issues arising from the recommendations.

Resource implications

- 7. There are no specific resource implications.

Consultation

- 8. The political group whips were invited to put forward nominations as part of the annual nominations process in June 2009. The whips have been notified of the requirement to reduce the local authority representation.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

- 9. The local authority is required to report to the Schools Adjudicator on the membership of the Admissions Forum and the Schools Adjudicator should refer matters concerning membership and the prescribed maximum limit of an Admissions Forum to the Secretary of State where they do not comply. It is therefore desirable that the local authority representation issue is addressed as soon as possible.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

10. It was initially thought possible that the matter could be addressed without needing to seek further executive approval. However after further consideration, it was deemed that a decision on the matter by the executive was required. The decision to include the matter on the executive agenda was taken very close to the deadline for the agenda despatch. It has not been possible to carry out internal consultation and report preparation in time for the agenda despatch.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
School Admissions Code (February 2009)	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Executive Agenda and Minutes – June 23 2009	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221

APPENDICES

No.	Title
	None.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	December 9 2009	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Strategic Director of Children's Services	Yes	No comments
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	December 10 2009	