

ITEM NO: 9

Report To:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	26 August 2015
Executive Member Reporting Officer:	/ Councillor Gerald P Cooney – Executive Member - Learning, Skills and Economic Growth Heather Loveridge – Assistant Executive Director (Education)
Subject:	ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAMESIDE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS AND OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA
Report Summary:	<p>The report details the outcomes of the consultation on a proposal to review oversubscription criterion 4, 'attendance at a Tameside primary school' and replace it with specified partner (Feeder) schools linked to each community secondary school to ensure that the Council has a fair admission arrangements compliant with the Code, whilst managing our statutory duty to ensure we are able to provide a place for every Tameside resident of school age. It should be noted that the Council only has jurisdiction as admission authority in relation to community schools and hence why no Academy, or voluntary aided (Faith) school are referred to. There were eight responses to the consultation.</p>
Recommendation:	<p>The Executive Board are recommended to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) that criterion 4 of the secondary school admission arrangements for September 2016 is amended to: Children attending the named partner primary school at the time of application. Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school. When a parent has moved from further than ½ mile to an address within ½ mile of a named partner school, whilst their child is in Year 5 or 6, and they have chosen to keep their child at their current primary school, this will be considered as an exceptional circumstance under criterion 4, provided details are given on the special circumstances form together with satisfactory evidence of the house move.(2) the named partner primary schools detailed in Appendix 2 are partner ('feeder') schools for the purposes of the school admission arrangements for September 2016.
Links to Community Strategy:	The proposals will support the delivery of the objectives of the Community Strategy.
Policy Implications:	The recommendation will lead to a change in the admission arrangements for all Tameside community high schools for September 2016 onwards.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications from this proposal as the change in process will be managed within existing service budgets.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

Whilst there was no requirement in law to consult the Council did so in the interests of transparency and openness. The preferred option has been approved by Leading Counsel as a lawful alternative in the circumstances, and subject to any alternative rationale put forward as a viable proposition during the consultation process, appears to be an appropriate way for the Council to agree to amend its policy.

The Council will need to fulfil its obligations under the Equalities agenda and conduct an Equalities Impact Assessment. This is required to meet its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 and to address concerns raised during the consultation process. The report's author has confirmed that the Equalities Impact Assessment is under development and will be made available to Members when a formal decision is being made.

Following approval of the revised admission arrangements a copy will need to be submitted to the Schools Adjudicator.

Risk Management:

Failure to determine admission arrangements that comply with the School Admissions Code could result in the Secretary of State imposing admissions arrangements on the Council and lead to the displacement of children from community high schools.

One of the Council's remaining statutory responsibilities is to deliver sufficient and suitable places to meet projected demand for both primary and secondary pupils. The proposals contained within this report will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities in 2016/2017. However, careful planning will be required to ensure the provision of both primary and secondary places in future years.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Heather Loveridge – Assistant Executive Director, Education by:



Telephone: 0161 342 2050



e-mail: heather.loveridge@tameside.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On the 25 March 2015 Executive Cabinet determined that the admission arrangements for Tameside community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for admission in 2016-17 without change from those that applied for admission in 2015-16. The admission arrangements relate only relates to community high schools which are:
- Alder Community High School
 - Astley Sports College and Community High School
 - Denton Community College
 - Hyde Community College
 - Longdendale High School
 - Mossley Hollins High School
- 1.2 In April 2015, local publicity surrounding the outcome of an objection to the School Adjudicator about the admission arrangements at Chorlton High School prompted a review of Tameside's admission arrangements. Chorlton High School had a similar oversubscription criterion to Tameside Council's criterion 4. In that case, the School Adjudicator ruled that the criterion breached the School Admission Code as it had failed to name feeder schools and this was in breach of section 1.9 of the School Admissions Code. The school has changed the relevant criteria. Manchester City Council who had the same criteria as Chorlton High School have recently consulted on changes to their admission arrangements for September 2016 and removed that criterion.
- 1.3 On 17 June 2015, Executive Cabinet considered a report that outlined a proposal to review oversubscription criterion 4, 'attendance at a Tameside primary school' to ensure we comply with the Code.
- 1.4 The report outlined the rationale for this criterion but also looked at possible alternatives so that the Council complies with the School Admissions Code. The alternatives discussed include moving to a distance based criterion; a geographical priority area criterion and a feeder school criterion together with the reasons both for and against each approach.
- 1.5 Although there is no requirement to consult in law, in the interests of transparency and effective working relations, Executive Cabinet approved a consultation on amending the determined admission arrangements for community high schools for entry in September 2016 to replace the current criterion 4 with specified feeder schools linked to each community secondary school, and consider any viable alternative put forward to ensure that the Council has a fair admission arrangements compliant with the Code, whilst managing the statutory duty to ensure we are able to provide a place for every Tameside resident of school age.

2 CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The consultation ran from 25 June 2015 and closed on 6 August 2015. A consultation document (**Appendix 1**) was available and was published on the Council website's school admission 2016 page. The Headteachers of all Tameside high schools and primary schools were sent an email informing them of the consultation.
- 2.2 There were eight responses to the consultation. These were from the Headteacher of Alder Community High School and the Headteacher of St Raphael's Roman Catholic Primary School and six parents. The issues they raised are:

Concerns	Directorate of People Response
<p>Can the word 'feeder' be replaced with 'partner' therefore removing any notion of hierarchy or that those students in that school cannot go to any other school.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>That Greave and Woodley Primary schools in Stockport are named partner school for Alder as we have strong curriculum links with both schools.</p>	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that some of the pupils from Greave and Woodley Primary schools may live in Tameside, the reason for rejecting other potential oversubscription options was to balance the statutory requirement for Tameside to provide sufficient places for Tameside residents against a geographical legacy of schools being on the geographical borders. This was discussed in detail in the Executive Cabinet report of 24 June 2015 and in the consultation document. It is likely that parents of pupils at Greave and Woodley will have a higher ranking than in previous years as there will no longer be ranked lower than many other pupils from non- partner schools as would happen with the current criterion.</p>
<p>Respondent feels that the basic proposal of linking primary schools to secondary schools will disadvantage/ discriminate against parents in Tameside, especially those who choose a Catholic primary school for their child's early, formative education.</p>	<p>The reasons for needing to move to a system of partner primary schools was discussed in detail in the Executive Cabinet report of 24 June 2015 and in the consultation document. There are a lot of factors that have been taken into account in coming to these proposals and maintaining the status quo is unfortunately not an option because of the need to comply with the statutory code.</p>
<p>Currently at St Raphael's pupils are from Catholic and non-Catholic families (approximately 50:50). The proposal actively discourages parents (especially non Catholic families) from choosing St Raphael's as it effectively limits their choice of secondary school.</p>	<p>Currently, the Roman Catholic high schools have oversubscription criteria based on (designated) feeder primary schools and all Roman Catholic primary schools are linked to one of the Roman Catholic high schools in the borough. Some parents will choose St Raphael's for that reason. The proposed partner primary schools are based on existing geographical and curriculum links however, it is acknowledged that non-Catholic applicants from Catholic primary schools may be disadvantaged by maintaining the proposed list of partner schools as outlined in the consultation document. It will be recommended in this report that the list of partner schools for Mossley Hollins is expanded to include St Raphael's RC Primary School.</p>
<p>The proposal has the knock on effect of marginalising many primary schools as parents have to consider</p>	<p>Agreed. Unfortunately, any oversubscription criteria will necessitate parents making choices, for example, in some other local authority areas that have catchment areas and parents will make decisions about where they live. Tameside</p>

Concerns	Directorate of People Response
<p>the secondary school place when choosing the primary school. This should be a choice open to parents at the correct time, not 8 years before they have to make final decision.</p>	<p>Council wants all our high schools to be good or outstanding schools and is working in partnership with schools to achieve this so that parents are happy for their children to attend all of our high schools.</p>
<p>St Raphael's RC Primary School is currently a feeder school only for All Saints RC High School and this is too far to travel</p>	<p>All Catholic high schools in Tameside have designated feeder Catholic primary schools within their over-subscription criteria as they are part of their school family and this has been the case for a number of years. The implementation of partner primary schools as part of the oversubscription criteria does not preclude parents for expressing a preference for any school and the distance that a pupil may have to travel is not part of the consideration other than for allocation purposes. However, there are many children that travel large distances to access the school of their preference.</p>
<p>Children from out of Tameside could be allocated a place at a school before Tameside children</p>	<p>Agreed. However, the School Admissions Code does not allow admission authorities to set oversubscription criteria which actively discriminate against applications on the grounds of the local authority area that they live in. This is discussed in detail in section 5 of the Executive Cabinet report from 24 June 2015 http://www.tameside.gov.uk/executive/cabinet/24jun15/agenda.</p>
<p>Millbrook Primary School should also be included in the list of feeder schools for Mossley Hollins High School as Buckton Vale is and both schools are in the Carrbrook area of the borough. One respondent says that teaching staff meet and share information and insight, there are regular visits between the schools, they have at least one governor who is both a governor of Millbrook Primary and a governor of Mossley Hollins. They use the Mossley Hollins minibus.</p>	<p>The proposed list of partner primary schools was drawn up in consultation with secondary headteachers and was based on current curriculum links. However, it is accepted that the school allocations from Carrbrook area of the borough have traditionally been split between Mossley Hollins High School and Copley Academy and there are geographical considerations in that area that aren't reflected in the proposed partner school list. It will be recommended in this report that the list of partner schools for Mossley Hollins is expanded to include Millbrook Primary School.</p>
<p>The proposed change limits freedom of choice for parents</p>	<p>The reason for proposing the changes to the oversubscription criteria are described in detail in the Executive Cabinet report from 24 June 2015 http://www.tameside.gov.uk/executive/cabinet/24jun15/agenda. Changes are needed in order to comply with the School Admissions Code, however, this doesn't limit parents from</p>

Concerns	Directorate of People Response
	expressing a preference for up to six secondary schools.
The consultation paper does not clearly assess the impacts of the policy change.	An Equality Impact Assessment will be concluded before the Key Decision is taken by Executive Cabinet which will look at the impact of the proposed policy change which is necessary to ensure the council remains legal.

3 CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS

- 3.1 The Council carefully considered a number of options to ensure that the school admission arrangements are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
- 3.2 In discussion of the options for possible oversubscription criteria, a purely distance criteria or geographical priority areas were discounted. Due to the specific geographical placement of the community high schools in the borough, a purely distance criteria could mean that Tameside residents are displaced by applicants from outside the borough as they live closer to the school. The geographical priority areas are also problematic due to the geographical locations of the schools and 5 out of the six community high schools being in one half of the borough.
- 3.3 The best option for Tameside community high schools is to implement partner schools and three models of implementation were discussed which can be summarised as:
- All Tameside community, voluntary controlled and Church of England voluntary aided primary schools as partner schools for all six community high schools; this would not be compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.
 - To mirror the school place planning areas and name partner schools on a wider geographical area; again this would be difficult to reconcile with the Schools Admissions Code; and
 - To have a number of partner primary schools for high schools so that each primary school is a partner school for a set number of high schools.
- 3.4 There are advantages and disadvantages with each of these three approaches but the responsibility of the Council therefore in setting its oversubscription criteria is to be “reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation” (para 1.8 School Admissions Code), it is not to ensure that all parents are able to be allocated a place at their preferred school.
- 3.5 The consultation on a proposal to implement a system of named partner schools for the six community high schools has prompted eight responses one was in favour of the proposal and seven were against. Five of the six who submitted responses that were against proposals have suggested additions to the list of partner schools and these have been incorporated into a revised list which is at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.6 Making the decision now will ensure that the new oversubscription criterion can be published in the Moving On document, the borough’s composite prospectus so that all parents will be fully informed on the new criterion before making their application for a Year 7 place for September 2016.

4 IMPACT

- 4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been conducted and is included as **Appendix 3**.
- 4.2 The removal of the current Category 4 from the oversubscription criteria for a number of high schools in the borough will have an impact on the numbers of children from different primary schools (including some outside the borough) that will be successful in their applications to Tameside community high schools.
- 4.3 It is difficult to assess the extent of this, as it is entirely dependent on the preferences expressed by parents in future admissions rounds. This impact is likely to be more significant in schools' close to the Tameside border, where children who reside in a neighbouring authority may be a higher priority for a place within category 4 because of the closer distance of their address to the school than other children who reside in Tameside. This may have an effect on children who attend a Tameside primary school which is not a partner primary school and whose application might, as a consequence, be less likely to be successful.
- 4.4 There is likely to be an impact on the applications for partner primary schools for the most popular community secondary schools in Tameside. This may lead to some parents trying to move their children into these schools before their making application for a place in Year 7. However, this can only happen when there are places available in the relevant year group.
- 4.5 A potential negative impact was identified during the consultation for non-Catholic pupils attending Catholic primary schools. The proposed list of partner primary schools has been adjusted to take account of this feedback.
- 4.6 The current criterion 2 relating to children and families with exceptional medical or social needs will remain for the foreseeable future so that pupils and their families will continue to be able to put forward a case for having their needs met at a particular school. Children with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan will also be allocated a school place in advance of all other allocations. The legislation, guidance and data considered in this Equalities impact assessment does not identify other negative impacts that can be considered under the Equality Act.
- 4.7 The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult on changes to their admission arrangements on an annual basis. It is proposed that the whole admission arrangements should be the subject of public consultation for admission in September 2017 so that parents and other interested parties have an opportunity to comment further on partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion for community secondary schools.
- 4.8 It remains the Council's statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient places available for all children requiring a place within the borough. The Council continues to plan strategically to increase capacity, expanding existing schools and creating, and supporting the creation of, new schools in partnership with local providers.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 As detailed at the front of this report.

APPENDIX 1

CONSULTATION ON AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAMESIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

JUNE 2015

BACKGROUND

1.1 On the 25 March 2015 Executive Cabinet determined that the admission arrangements for Tameside community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for admission in 2016-17 without change from those that applied for admission in 2015-16. The admission arrangements relate only relates to community high schools which are:

- Alder Community High School
- Astley Sports College and Community High School
- Denton Community College
- Hyde Community College
- Longdendale High School
- Mossley Hollins High School

1.2 This consultation follows local publicity surrounding the outcome of an objection to the School Adjudicator about the admission arrangements at Chorlton High School. The school had a similar oversubscription criterion to Tameside Council's criterion 4. In that case, the School Adjudicator ruled that the criterion breached the School Admission Code as it had failed to name feeder schools and this was in breach of section 1.9 of the School Admissions Code. The school has changed the relevant criteria. Manchester City Council who had the same criteria as Chorlton High School have recently consulted on changes to their admission arrangements for September 2016 and removed that criterion.

1.3 This consultation specifically relates to oversubscription criterion 4, which states:

4. Children attending local authority maintained or Academy primary schools in Tameside and pupils educated at home at the time of application

Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school.

When a parent has moved from further than ½ mile to an address within ½ mile of any Tameside Primary school, whilst their child is in Year 5 or 6, and they have chosen to keep their child at their current primary school, or where the child is educated at home and the address is within half a mile of a Tameside primary school, this will be considered as an exceptional circumstance under criterion 4, provided details are given on the special circumstances form together with satisfactory evidence of the house move.

2 ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT CRITERION 4

2.1. In looking at alternatives, the following information is useful. Tameside has fifteen high schools:

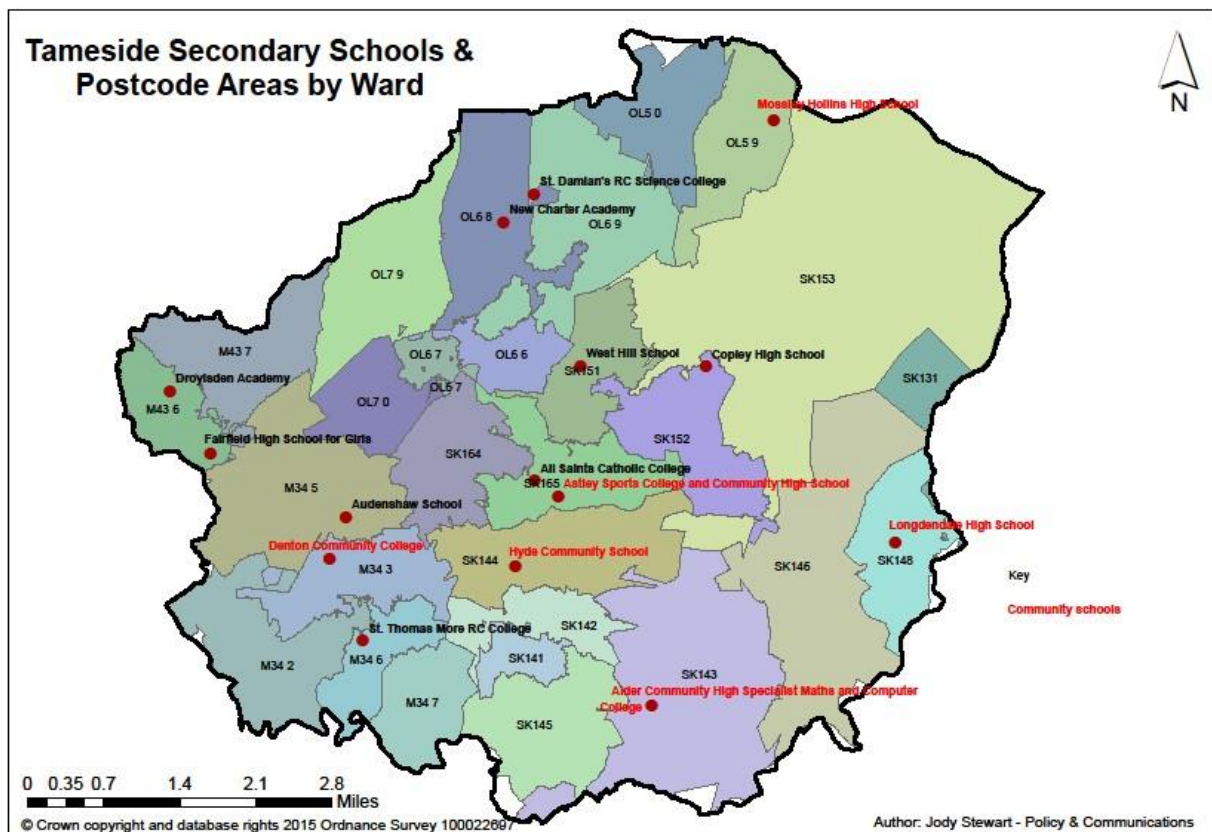
- 6 community high schools;
- 2 academies for boys;
- 1 academy for girls;
- 2 Roman Catholic voluntary aided schools;
- 1 Roman Catholic academy;

- 3 academies.

2.2 The three Roman Catholic schools have faith based oversubscription criteria and the girls' academy and two single sex boys' schools have oversubscription criteria that reflect a preference for single sex education. The other 10 schools have similar oversubscription criteria although the review only relates to the six community schools as the Council is the admissions authority for those schools.

2.3 Tameside is geographically small and was founded in 1974 following local government reorganisation. The borough was previously served by three counties; Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire. This has given the borough a legacy of school locations that are unique to Tameside.

2.4 The map below shows the distribution of high schools across the borough and illustrates the issue that the borough has wrestled with in terms of ensuring that there are enough places for Tameside residents. As can be seen, ten of the fifteen high schools are close to the border of the local authority boundaries. Of the five schools in the middle of the borough, one is a single sex school for boys (West Hill School), one is a Roman Catholic school (All Saints Catholic College) and one is an academy (Copley High School).



2.5 There are three possible options for a new oversubscription criterion:

- Have a criterion that is based purely on distance;
- Create geographical priority areas for the six community schools;
- Have feeder schools for community high schools.

2.6 There are advantages and disadvantages with each option.

- 2.7 The Executive Cabinet of the Council considered a report on these options and the full report can be found on the Council's <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/executive/cabinet/24jun15/agenda>. The decision that the Executive Cabinet took was to consult on implementing feeder schools.

3 FEEDER SCHOOLS

- 3.1 Most of our schools have specific links with many primary schools in their area and many high schools have committed significant resources to establish maintain these links.

- It would maintain the geographical links that many parents have with their local high school and also reflect the schools that the largest group of Year 6 pupils historically move to;
- It would maintain the active links between all schools ranging from the shared induction to more specific curriculum links but it would encourage high schools to focus on stronger and earlier links with a smaller group of schools than they may do currently.

- 3.2 Under paragraph 1.15 of the Schools Admission Code:

*“Admission authorities may wish to name a primary or middle school as a feeder school. The selection of a feeder school or schools as an oversubscription criterion **must** be transparent and made on reasonable grounds.”*

- 3.3 The six community schools in the borough already have established links with their cluster primary schools which extend beyond the obvious links in relation to transition. These clusters are in effect their established feeder schools and much stronger links are being forged to ensure that primary education can prepare children well for the challenges they will encounter at a secondary level. Most of the Secondary community schools have put in place a number of the following developments:

- Making more effective use of assessment data from primary schools;
- Planning for effective curriculum continuity and progression;
- Monitoring pupils work;
- Regular meetings between Year 5 & 6 teachers with Year 7 teachers;
- Year 7 teachers observing primary children in their learning environments;
- Secondary language teachers timetabled to teach in cluster primary schools;
- Primary and Secondary groups of schools working together to plan induction;
- Sporting and cross curricular opportunities between Secondary and cluster primaries;
- Year 6 students starting at Secondary school in the last two weeks of term;
- Senior leaders regularly meeting with their cluster primary schools in relation to curriculum, assessment, leadership and data.

- 3.4 There are also specific geographical links that have been taken into account, for example, travel to school patterns.

- 3.5 In effect, there are already active and specific links between groups of primary schools with specific secondary schools and this consultation would formalise the arrangement to assist in the allocation of school places for all six community high schools.

- 3.6 The proposed list of feeder schools for entry to Year 7 in September 2016 is attached as

Appendix 1.

3.7 The proposed wording for Criterion 4 will be:

- 4 Children attending the named feeder school at the time of application. Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school.

When a parent has moved from further than ½ mile to an address within ½ mile of a named feeder school, whilst their child is in Year 5 or 6, and they have chosen to keep their child at their current primary school, this will be considered as an exceptional circumstance under criterion 4, provided details are given on the special circumstances form together with satisfactory evidence of the house move.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Whilst there is no specific requirement to consult on making the proposed changes, it is good practice to do so. The consultation exercise will run from 25 June 2015 until 6 August 2015. At the end of the consultation period, a report will be taken to Executive Cabinet at its meeting on 26 August 2015 to ensure that admission arrangements can be incorporated into the composite prospectus (Moving On), which the Council is required to publish by 12 September each year.
- 4.2 If you wish to make your views known on this consultation, please send them to Catherine Moseley, Head of Access and Inclusion, Tameside MBC, Shirley House, Oldham Street, Hyde, SK14 1LJ or by email catherine.moseley@tameside.gov.uk. Please note that only views expressed in writing can be considered. There is no public access to Shirley House so please send your written response through the post or hand in to any of the Council's customer service centres <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/customerservices>.

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR TAMESIDE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS					
Alder Community High School	Astley Sports College and Community High School	Denton Community College	Hyde Community College	Longdendale High School	Mossley Hollins High School
Arundale	Bradley Green	Audenshaw	Arundale	Arundale	Buckton Vale
Bradley Green	Broadbent Fold	Corrie	Bradley Green	Bradley Green	Livingstone
Discovery Academy	Lyndhurst	Dane Bank	Broadbent Fold	Broadbottom CofE	Micklehurst
Dowson	Oakfield	Denton West End	Discovery Academy	Discovery Academy	Milton St John's CofE
Gee Cross Holy Trinity	Ravensfield	Greswell	Dowson	Dowson	St George's CofE
Godley	St John's CofE	Linden Road	Flowery Field	Godley	St Joseph's RC
Greenfield	St Mary's RC (Dukinfield)	Manor Green	Gee Cross	Gorse Hall	
Leigh	Yew Tree	Poplar Street	Godley	Greenfield	
Mottram CofE		Russell Scott	Greenfield	Hollingworth	
Pinfold		St Anne's CofE	Leigh	Mottram CofE	
St George's CofE Hyde		St Stephen's CofE	Linden Rd	Pinfold	
St James' RC Hyde			Oakfield	St James' RC Hyde	
St Paul's RC Hyde			Pinfold	St Paul's RC	
Stalyhill Juniors			St George's CofE Hyde	Stalyhill	
			St Paul's RC Hyde	Yew Tree	

PROPOSED FEEDER PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR TAMESIDE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOLS

ACADEMIES		
New Charter	Copley	Droylsden
The Heys	Arlies	Aldwyn
Arlies	Buckton Vale	Audenshaw
Ashton West End	Gorse Hall	Fairfield Road
Broadoak	Millbrook	Greenside
Canon Burrows CofE	Silver Springs	Manchester Road
Canon Johnson CofE	St Paul's CofE Stalybridge	Moorside
Holden Clough	Stalyhill Junior	Poplar St
Holy Trinity CofE	Wild Bank	St Anne's RC, Audenshaw
Hurst Knoll		St Mary's CofE Droylsden
Inspire Academy		St Stephen's CofE
Parochial CofE		St Stephen's RC
Rosehill Methodist		
Silver Springs Academy		
St James' CofE Ashton		
St Peter's CofE		
Waterloo		

APPENDIX 2

PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR TAMESIDE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOLS					
Alder Community High School	Astley Sports College and Community High School	Denton Community College	Hyde Community College	Longdendale High School	Mossley Hollins High School
Arundale	Bradley Green	Audenshaw	Arundale	Arundale	Buckton Vale
Bradley Green	Broadbent Fold	Corrie	Bradley Green	Bradley Green	Livingstone
Discovery Academy	Lyndhurst	Dane Bank	Broadbent Fold	Broadbottom CofE	Micklehurst
Dowson	Oakfield	Denton West End	Discovery Academy	Discovery Academy	Milton St John's CofE
Gee Cross Holy Trinity	Ravensfield	Greswell	Dowson	Dowson	St George's CofE
Godley	St John's CofE	Linden Road	Flowery Field	Godley	St Joseph's RC
Greenfield	St Mary's RC (Dukinfield)	Manor Green	Gee Cross	Gorse Hall	St Raphael's RC
Leigh	Yew Tree	Poplar Street	Godley	Greenfield	Millbrook
Mottram CofE		Russell Scott	Greenfield	Hollingworth	
Pinfold		St Anne's CofE	Leigh	Mottram CofE	
St George's CofE Hyde		St Stephen's CofE	Linden Rd	Pinfold	
St James' RC Hyde			Oakfield	St James' RC Hyde	
St Paul's RC Hyde			Pinfold	St Paul's RC	
Stalyhill Juniors			St George's CofE Hyde	Stalyhill	
			St Paul's RC Hyde	Yew Tree	

Subject	Tameside community secondary school admission arrangements – oversubscription criteria	
	EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
Service / Business Unit	Service Area	Directorate
Access and Inclusion	Education	People
EIA Start Date (Actual)	EIA Completion Date (Expected)	Completion Date (Actual)
June 2014	August 2015	<i>To be completed by Corporate Performance</i>

Lead Contact / Officer Responsible	Catherine Moseley
Service Unit Manager Responsible	Catherine Moseley

EIA Group (lead contact first)	Job title	Service
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access and Inclusion	Education
Heather Loveridge	Assistant Executive Director	Education
Julie Waterhouse	Access Manager	Education

The following annex is attached:

Annex 1 – ethnicity data for all Tameside community secondary schools and their proposed partner primary schools.

SUMMARY BOX
<p>On the 25 March 2015, the Executive Cabinet determined the admission arrangements for Tameside community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools for admission in 2016-17 without change from those that applied for admission in 2015-16 other than to amend operative dates and comply with statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code issued in December 2014 in accordance with Regulation 19(2) of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-Ordination of Admission Arrangements)(England) Regulations.</p> <p>In June 2015 following local publicity about a recent complaint to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator about the admission arrangements for a school in a neighbouring borough which were similar to the Tameside arrangements, the Council decided to review oversubscription criterion 4, ‘attendance at a Tameside primary school’ to ensure we comply with the Code for Tameside community secondary schools.</p> <p>A report to Executive Cabinet outlined the rationale for the current criterion and looked at possible alternatives so that the Council complies with the School Admissions Code. The alternatives discussed include moving to a distance based criterion; a geographical priority area criterion and a feeder school criterion together with the reasons both for and against each approach. The accompanying executive decision gave permission to consult on introducing partner primary schools.</p>

Consultation took place on implementing partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion between 25 June and 6 August 2015. A proposed list of partner primary schools for each community secondary school was included. Eight responses were received.

A potential negative impact was identified during the consultation for non-Catholic pupils attending Catholic primary schools. The proposed list of partner primary schools has been adjusted to take account of this feedback.

The current criterion 2 relating to children and families with exceptional medical or social needs will remain for the foreseeable future so that pupils and their families will continue to be able to put forward a case for having their needs met at a particular school. Children with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan will also be allocated a school place in advance of all other allocations. The legislation, guidance and data considered in this Equalities impact assessment does not identify other negative impacts that can be considered under the Equality Act.

The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult on changes to their admission arrangements on an annual basis. It is proposed that the whole admission arrangements should be the subject of public consultation for admission in September 2017 so that parents and other interested parties have an opportunity to comment further on partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion for community secondary schools.

Section 1 - Background

BACKGROUND

There are two elements to the school admission process. Each local authority must publish a coordinated admissions scheme. The scheme outlines the process by which local authorities coordinate the distribution of offers of places for schools in their area. The coordinated scheme applies to all applications to all schools in an area. The second element are the admission arrangements that each admission authority must have. Admission arrangements are the rules by which school places are allocated. The School Admissions Code imposes mandatory requirements on all admission authorities and they are required to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the Code. Tameside Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in the borough but not Academies, voluntary aided or free schools.

Admission arrangements are determined on an annual basis and this was last done in March 2015.

Current policy

A review of the determined arrangements was necessary following local publicity surrounding the outcome of an objection to the School Adjudicator about the admission arrangements at Chorlton High School. The school had a similar oversubscription criterion to Tameside Council's criterion 4. In that case, the School Adjudicator ruled that the criterion breached the School Admission Code as it had failed to name feeder schools and this was in breach of section 1.9 of the School Admissions Code. The school have changed the relevant criteria. Manchester City Council who had the same criteria as Chorlton High School have recently consulted on changes to their admission arrangements for September 2016 and removed that criterion.

The review and EIA report specifically relates to oversubscription criterion 4, which states:

4. Children attending local authority maintained or Academy primary schools in Tameside and pupils educated at home at the time of application

Preference will be given to pupils living nearest to the school.

Rationale for change

A report to the Council's Executive Cabinet on 24 June 2015 examined a number of alternatives to the above criterion including a purely distance criterion; geographical priority areas; and feeder schools. The report reached the following conclusions:

Oversubscription criteria are necessary to ensure that the application process for schools is transparent and objective. Oversubscription criteria are used when there are more applications than places available at a school and there is a need to rank applications in a priority order. The implementation of equal preference applications means that all secondary schools use oversubscription criteria to determine which applicants are allocated a place. For example, for admission in September 2015, Mossley Hollins received 549 applications of which 225 were first preferences for 156 places meaning that at least 69 parents and children were not allocated a place at their first preference school.

Tameside Council has had a broadly similar oversubscription criterion 4 for its community high schools since 2003. That criterion is that children who have attended a Tameside primary school will be given a high priority than those that haven't. This was not done to prejudice children who lived outside the borough but avoid detriment to children within the borough.

Since 2003, several things have changed that have affected the implementation of this criterion. There have been several revisions to the School Admissions Code and the latest major revision in 2012 seems to have rendered our criterion 4 to be in breach of the Code in light of the School Adjudicators recent determination of a case involving the Governing Body of Chorlton High School in Manchester.

There is a dramatically different mix of schools in the borough. The number of high schools has reduced from 19 to 15 and there are now only six community schools as opposed to 12 in 2003. Nine high schools in the borough are now academies or voluntary aided and responsible for setting their own admission arrangements.

This change in the mix of schools impacts on how the Council can formulate oversubscription criteria. Consideration of other factors such as parental preference and geographical location also need to be taken into account.

In 2008, the Council sought external specialist legal advice from Leading Counsel on its oversubscription criteria. At that time, the advice was that "any criteria will distinguish between different categories of person and those who fall foul of them may say they are thus "unfair". The question is the nature of the unfairness." Taking this into account, by its very nature, any oversubscription criteria will give one application priority over another and therefore will be unpopular with parents who are not allocated a place in their preferred school because they do not rank high enough when the criteria are applied.

In discussion of the options for possible oversubscription criteria, the report discounted a purely distance criteria and geographical priority areas. Due to the specific geographical placement of the community high schools in the borough, a purely distance criteria could mean that Tameside residents are displaced by applicants from outside the borough as they live closer to the school. The geographical priority areas are also problematic due to the geographical locations of the schools and 5 out of the six community high schools being in one half of the borough.

The best option for Tameside community high schools is to implement partner primary schools and of the three models discussed, it was agreed to consult on having a number of feeder primary

schools for high schools so that each primary school is a feeder school for a set number of high schools.

It is acknowledged that there are advantages and disadvantages with each of the approaches and as Counsel opined, any oversubscription criteria will inevitably be unpopular with someone “because any criteria will lead to winners and losers and to that extent be “unfair” to the losers”.

The responsibility of the Council therefore in setting its oversubscription criteria is to be “reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation” (para 1.8 School Admissions Code), it is not to ensure that all parents are able to be allocated a place at their preferred school.

The proposed new criterion 4

A list of proposed feeder schools was drawn up in consultation with secondary Headteachers for each community secondary school taking into account a number of factors including home to school travel patterns; geographical considerations and current curriculum links. Consultation took place on implementing partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion between 25 June and 6 August 2015. A proposed list of partner primary schools for each community secondary school was included. Eight responses were received. This EIA accompanies the report to Executive Cabinet to make a decision on the adoption of the revised criterion.

As has been mentioned, the admission arrangements are the way that applications for school places are treated and the oversubscription criteria provide a ranking system for all applications. This means that there are likely to be unsuccessful applications for every school in every year as parents can express a preference for up to six schools. Some schools will be oversubscribed on first preferences meaning that some parents will be disappointed with their allocation. As cited earlier, at least 69 parents and children were not allocated a place at their first preference school, Mossley Hollins for September 2015. This EIA sets out to show that whilst some applicants will be unsuccessful in their applications for a place, the decision not to offer a place was not based on any protected characteristic.

Section 2 – Issues to consider & evidence base

ISSUES TO CONSIDER

Legislation and regulations

Human Rights Act 1998

The Human Rights Act 1998 confers a right of access to education. This right does not extend to securing a place at a particular school. Admission authorities, however, do need to consider parents’ reasons for expressing a preference when they make admission decisions, though this may not necessarily result in the allocation of a place. These might include, for example, the parents’ rights to ensure that their child’s education conforms to their own religious or philosophical convictions (as far as is compatible with the provision of efficient instruction and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure).

Each local authority is required to have a coordinated admission scheme. The scheme is the process by which local authorities coordinate the distribution of offers of places for schools in their area. All local authorities are required to coordinate the normal admissions round for primary and secondary schools in their area. This is not being changed as part of this process. This means that parents will still have the right to express a preference for up to six schools. The application form includes free text areas for parents to express their reasons for expressing a preference for a particular school. All details are passed to the admission authorities for them to consider as part of

the application process.

School Standards and Framework Act 1998

Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 contains the key provisions regarding schools admissions, including the statutory basis for this Code.

Section 86 of the SSFA 1998 provides that the admission authority for a maintained school (with the exception of those that select wholly by ability) must comply with any preference expressed by a parent except where to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

Section 94 of the SSFA 1998 provides that parents (and in some circumstances children) may appeal against a decision to refuse admission to the school. Two or more admission authorities in the same local authority area may make joint arrangements.

The Codes largely include the provisions relating to school admissions made in regulations. The most relevant regulations are:

- a) The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012;
- b) The School Admissions (Infant Class Sizes) (England) Regulations 2012;
- c) The School Admissions (Appeals) (England) Regulations 2012; and d) The School Information (England) Regulations 2008

As detailed above, the coordinated scheme covers many of the statutory requirements of the SSFA 1998 and this is not changing. The admission arrangements for Tameside community secondary schools outline the right of appeal and this is not being changed as part of this process.

Equality Act 2010

The School Admissions Code is clear on the extent to which the Equality Act 2010 is relevant:

This Act consolidates the law prohibiting discrimination, harassment and victimisation and expands the list of protected characteristics. All schools must have due regard to their obligations under the Act and review their policies and practices to make sure these meet the requirements of the Act, even if they believe that they are already operating in a non-discriminatory way.

An admission authority must not discriminate on the grounds of disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; or sexual orientation, against a person in the arrangements and decisions it makes as to who is offered admission as a pupil.

An admission authority must not harass a person who has applied for admission as a pupil, in relation to their disability; race; or sex.

An admission authority must not victimise a person in relation to a protected act either done, or believed to have been done by that person (e.g. bringing proceedings under the Equality Act 2010) in the arrangements and decisions it makes as to who is offered admission as a pupil.

This Act contains limited exceptions to the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion or belief and

sex. Schools designated by the Secretary of State as having a religious character are exempt from some aspects of the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief and this means they can make a decision about whether or not to admit a child as a pupil on the basis of religion or belief. Single-sex schools are lawfully permitted to discriminate on the grounds of sex in their admission arrangements.

Admission authorities are also subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and therefore must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations in relation to persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics for these purposes are: disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

The School Admissions Code

The School Admissions Code imposes mandatory requirements on all admission authorities and they are required to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the Code.

The Code is clear that the responsibility of setting admission arrangements lies with admission authorities. Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs. Admission arrangements must include an effective, clear and fair tie-breaker to decide between two applications that cannot otherwise be separated.

The Code is also clear that admission arrangements must not:

- a) place any conditions on the consideration of any application other than those in the oversubscription criteria published in their admission arrangements;
- b) take into account any previous schools attended, unless it is a named feeder school;
- c) give extra priority to children whose parents rank preferred schools in a particular order, including 'first preference first' arrangements;
- d) introduce any new selection by ability;
- e) give priority to children on the basis of any practical or financial support parents may give to the school or any associated organisation, including any religious authority. The exception to this is where parents pay optional nursery fees to the school or school-run nursery, for additional hours on top of their 15-hour funded early education, where children from the school nursery class or school-run nursery are given priority for admission to Reception;
- f) give priority to children according to the occupational, marital, financial or educational status of parents applying. The exceptions to this are children of staff at the school and those eligible for the early years pupil premium, the pupil premium and the service premium who may be prioritised in the arrangements in accordance with paragraphs 1.39 – 1.39B;
- g) take account of reports from previous schools about children's past behaviour, attendance, attitude or achievement, or that of any other children in the family;
- h) discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children, those with special educational needs, or those applying for admission outside their normal age group where an admission authority has agreed to this under paragraphs 2.17 to 2.17B;
- i) prioritise children on the basis of their own or their parents' past or current hobbies or activities (schools which have been designated as having a religious character may take account of religious activities, as laid out by the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination);

- j) in designated grammar schools that rank all children according to a pre-determined pass mark and then allocate places to those who score highest, give priority to siblings of current or former pupils;
- k) in the case of schools with boarding places, rank children on the basis of a child's suitability for boarding – more information on boarding schools is set out at paragraphs 1.40 - 1.41 below;
- l) name fee-paying independent schools as feeder schools;
- m) interview children or parents. In the case of sixth form applications, a meeting may be held to discuss options and academic entry requirements for particular courses, but this meeting cannot form part of the decision making process on whether to offer a place. Boarding schools may interview children to assess their suitability for boarding;
- n) request financial contributions (either in the form of voluntary contributions, donations or deposits (even if refundable)) as any part of the admissions process – including for tests; or
- o) request photographs of a child for any part of the admissions process, other than as proof of identity when sitting a selection test.

The admission arrangements for Tameside Council's community secondary schools do not disadvantage particular groups of children. The current admission arrangements allow for children with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) to be allocated a place at a school that can meet their identified needs before all other applications are considered. The admission arrangements also include as its second oversubscription criterion the following:

Children and families with exceptional medical or social needs

Written evidence must be provided by a suitably qualified professional – e.g. a GP or consultant for medical needs, or a social worker for social needs – the information must confirm the exceptional medical or social need and demonstrate how the specified school is the only school that can meet the defined needs of the child. A panel of officers from Tameside MBC will make a decision as to whether to admit a child under this criterion, using the evidence provided. Parents/carers are responsible for providing all information in support of an application by the closing date, officers of the Council will not ask for additional information. All information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Having this criterion enables parents to express a preference and have considered their reasons for a particular school which they believe will meet their child's and their own needs. For example, parents with a disability can apply for a place at a school that is easiest for them to get to but which may not be their nearest school or children may have medical conditions or disabilities that would not necessitate a statement or EHC and have those needs considered under this criterion.

The proposal to introduce partner primary schools is likely to have an impact on how parental preferences are dealt with. However, creating partner primary school links is the closest to the criterion currently in existence.

Under paragraph 1.15 of the Schools Admission Code:

“Admission authorities may wish to name a primary or middle school as a feeder school. The selection of a feeder school or schools as an oversubscription criterion must be transparent and made on reasonable grounds.”

Most of Tameside's secondary schools have specific links with many primary schools in their area. The collaboration described in the Key Decision report of 2008 has continued over many years. High schools in Tameside have recognised that the key to outstanding achievement and attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 is to be found, in part, in a dynamic and purposeful start to high school, where there is no loss of impetus from the end of Key Stage 2.

To this end many high schools have committed significant resources to ensuring that their new Year 7 students receive a comprehensive programme of transition once their Year 11 students have left, in addition to

- A deeper understanding of Key Stage 2 data and how it can be used in a high setting;
- A clearer understanding of the curriculum offer that their students enjoyed in Year 6, to avoid replication;
- First-hand experience of primary teaching so that high school teachers are familiar with the methodologies that are employed, in particular, in literacy and numeracy.

The choice of partner primary schools for each secondary school is important. As has already been described, the proposed lists of partner primary schools were agreed by Headteachers and were chosen based on existing curriculum links, geographical considerations and existing home to school travel patterns. Consideration has been given to ensuring that children from low income backgrounds are not disadvantaged and the level of free school meals and pupil premium has been looked at to ensure that there are not disproportionately large or small levels going into secondary schools:

January 15 census data					
Alder	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Arundale	22	6	12	27	55
Bradley Green	29	8	8	28	28
Discovery	Opening September 2016				
Dowson	58	8	12	14	21
Gee Cross	30	2	8	7	27
Godley	30	2	8	7	27
Greenfield	38	10	18	26	47
Leigh	30	10	23	33	77
Mottram	18	2	4	11	22
Pinfold	42	18	18	43	43
St George's	27	7	13	26	48
St James' RC Hyde	20	8	7	40	35
St Paul's RC Hyde	30	1	11	3	37
Stalyhill Juniors	60	1	6	2	10
TOTAL	265	57	100	22%	38%
Alder (whole school)	752	126	229	17%	30%

January 15 census data

Astley	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Bradley Green	29	8	8	28	28
Broadbent Fold	29	4	3	14	10
Lyndhurst	27	14	13	52	48
Oakfield	31	8	12	25	38
Ravensfield	50	16	27	32	54
St John's	28	4	5	14	18
St Mary's RC Dukinfield	29	2	7	7	24
Yew Tree	60	13	30	22	50
TOTAL	283	69	105	24%	37%
Astley (whole school)	571	180	291	32%	51%

January 15 census data

Denton Community College	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Audenshaw	31	2	4	6	13
Corrie	32	8	13	25	41
Dane Bank	30	3	12	10	40
DWE	62	2	6	3	10
Greswell	58	19	26	33	45
Linden Road	28	5	14	18	50
Manor Green	53	14	21	26	40
Poplar Street	40	8	19	20	47
Russell Scott	53	10	17	19	32
St Anne's	31	1	7	3	23
St Stephen's CofE	24	6	14	25	58
TOTAL	349	65	124	19%	36%
Denton Community College (whole school)	1019	279	466	27%	46%

January 15 census data

Hyde	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Arundale	22	6	12	27	55
Bradley Green	29	8	8	28	28
Broadbent Fold	29	4	3	14	10
Discovery	Opening September 2016				
Dowson	58	8	12	14	21
Flowery Field	59	23	34	39	58
Gee Cross	30	2	8	7	27
Godley	30	2	8	7	27
Greenfield	38	10	18	26	47
Leigh	30	10	23	33	77
Linden Road	28	5	14	18	50
Oakfield	31	8	12	26	39
Pinfold	42	18	18	43	43
St George's Hyde	27	7	13	26	48
St Paul's RC Hyde	30	1	11	3	37
TOTAL	256	61	117	24%	46%
Hyde (whole school)	910	248	426	27%	47%

January 15 census data					
Longdendale	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Arundale	22	6	12	27	55
Bradley Green	29	8	8	28	28
Broadbottom	13	1	1	8	8
Discovery	Opening September 2016				
Dowson	58	8	12	14	21
Godley	30	2	8	7	27
Gorse Hall	58	7	15	12	26
Greenfield	38	10	18	26	47
Hollingworth	31	4	6	13	19
Mottram	18	2	4	11	22
Pinfold	42	18	18	43	43
St James's RC Hyde	20	8	7	40	35
St Paul's RC Hyde	30	1	11	3	37
Stalyhill	60	1	6	2	10
Yew Tree	60	13	30	22	50
TOTAL	299	57	100	19%	33%

Longdendale (whole school)	730	116	234	16%	32%
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	Year 6 numbers	Free school meals numbers in year 6	Pupil Premium numbers in year 6	% free school meals in Year 6	% pupil premium in Year 6
Mossley Hollins					
Buckton Vale	39	4	7	10	18
Livingstone	21	6	6	29	29
Micklehurst All Saints	24	4	12	17	50
Millbrook	21	7	11	33	52
Milton	30	3	5	10	17
St George's	26	5	7	19	27
St Joseph's RC	24	2	4	8	17
St Raphael's	25	4	8	16	32
TOTAL	210	35	60	17%	29%
Mossley Hollins (whole school)	774	119	223	15%	29%

Data in the tables above does not seem to indicate that the choice of partner primary schools will significantly impact on pupils from low income backgrounds.

Ethnicity data for all primary partner schools and community secondary schools is included in Annex A of this EIA. This shows that there are a range of partner primary schools for each of the community secondary schools and the mix of potential pupils is likely to increase diversity rather than negatively impact.

Consultation and engagement

Tameside Council is committed to seeking and understanding the views of local people and stakeholders before making changes to services it provides to residents and the local community.

The Executive Cabinet considered a report at the meeting on 24 June 2015 meeting. This report outlined the reasons for proposing a change to the admission arrangements for community secondary schools and discussed a range of options that had been considered.

Consultation took place on implementing partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion between 25 June and 6 August 2015. The proposals were published on the Tameside Council website and all schools in the borough were notified of the consultation exercise. A proposed list of partner primary schools for each community secondary school was included.

Eight responses were received. Of these, several referred to the fact that a voluntary aided Roman Catholic primary school did not appear on the partner primary school list for the nearest community high school. The Headteacher of the school, along with several parents, made the point that not all pupils attending the Catholic primary school were Roman Catholic themselves and therefore would be a long way down the ranking using the oversubscription criteria for their associated Roman Catholic high school as their top criterion are for baptised Roman Catholic children. This has been accepted and following the analysis of feedback, the proposed partner primary schools have been adjusted where appropriate to take account of this.

Office of the Schools Adjudicator report

The Schools Adjudicator considered the admission arrangements for community secondary schools in June 2015 and the outcome can be found on the Office of the Schools Adjudicator website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tameside-metropolitan-borough-council>

LIST OF EVIDENCE SOURCES

Human Rights Act 1998

Equality Act 2010

School Standards and Framework Act 1998

School Admissions Code 2014

Report to Executive Cabinet 24 June 2015

Consultation document June 2015

Responses to the consultation as discussed in the Cabinet Report of 26 August 2015

Tameside secondary school admission arrangements for September 2016

Section 3 – Impact

IMPACT

The removal of the current Category 4 from the oversubscription criteria for a number of high schools in the borough will have an impact on the numbers of children from different primary schools (including some outside the borough) that will be successful in their applications to Tameside community high schools.

It is difficult to assess the extent of this, as it is entirely dependent on the preferences expressed by parents in future admissions rounds. This impact is likely to be more significant in schools' close to the Tameside border, where children who reside in a neighbouring authority may be a higher priority for a place within category 4 because of the closer distance of their address to the school than other children who reside in Tameside. This may have an effect on children who attend a Tameside primary school which is not a partner primary school and whose application might, as a consequence, be less likely to be successful.

There is likely to be an impact on the applications for partner primary schools for the most popular community secondary schools in Tameside. This may lead to some parents trying to move their children into these schools before their making application for a place in Year 7. However, this can only happen when there are places available in the relevant year group.

It remains the Council's statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient places available for all children requiring a place within the borough. The Council continues to plan strategically to increase capacity, expanding existing schools and creating, and supporting the creation of, new schools in partnership with local providers.

Section 4 – Proposals & Mitigation

PROPOSALS & MITIGATION

A potential negative impact was identified during the consultation for non-Catholic pupils attending Catholic primary schools. The proposed list of partner primary schools has been adjusted to take account of this feedback.

The current criterion 2 relating to children and families with exceptional medical or social needs will remain for the foreseeable future so that pupils and their families will continue to be able to put forward a case for having their needs met at a particular school. Children with a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan will also be allocated a school place in advance of all other allocations. The legislation, guidance and data considered in this Equalities impact assessment does not identify other negative impacts that can be considered under the Equality Act.

The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to consult on changes to their admission arrangements on an annual basis. It is proposed that the whole admission arrangements should be the subject of public consultation for admission in September 2017 so that parents and other interested parties have an opportunity to comment further on partner primary schools as an oversubscription criterion for community secondary schools.

Section 5 – Monitoring

MONITORING PROGRESS

See below

Issue / Action	Lead officer	Timescale
Monitor if changes to partner primary schools has an impact on admissions	Catherine Moseley	May 2016
Consult on admission arrangements for September 2017	Catherine Moseley	February 2016

Sign off

Signature of Service Unit Manager	Date
Catherine Moseley	August 2015
Signature of Assistant Executive Director / Assistant Chief Executive	Date
Heather Loveridge	August 2015

ANNEX A

Ethnicity Data

ALDER PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number						Percentage				
Greenfield	262	7	11	2	20	302	87%	2%	4%	1%	7%
Pinfold	0	2	5	1	390	398	0%	1%	1%	0%	98%
Arundale	0	0	8	1	177	186	0%	0%	4%	1%	95%
Stalyhill	7	0	8	0	223	238	3%	0%	3%	0%	94%
Bradley Green	10	0	11	0	204	225	4%	0%	5%	0%	91%
Dowson	27	0	15	0	429	471	6%	0%	3%	0%	91%
Godley	1	0	4	0	261	266	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
Leigh	169	1	11	2	104	287	59%	0%	4%	1%	36%
Gee Cross	0	0	7	1	215	223	0%	0%	3%	0%	96%
St George's	132	0	6	4	76	218	61%	0%	3%	2%	35%
Mottram	0	0	6	0	130	136	0%	0%	4%	0%	96%
St Paul's	1	0	4	0	246	251	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
St James'	0	1	7	2	161	171	0%	1%	4%	1%	94%
ALDER	54	1	20	7	640	722	7%	0%	3%	1%	89%

ASTLEY PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number					Percentage					
Bradley Green	10	4	11	0	204	229	4%	2%	5%	0%	89%
Broadbent Fold	3	0	11	0	217	231	1%	0%	5%	0%	94%
Lyndhurst	11	8	10	10	207	246	4%	3%	4%	4%	84%
Oakfield	9	6	5	0	211	231	4%	3%	2%	0%	91%
Ravensfield	13	6	11	0	413	443	3%	1%	2%	0%	93%
St John's	24	1	6	0	244	275	9%	0%	2%	0%	89%
St Mary's (Duk)	8	1	5	0	196	210	4%	0%	2%	0%	93%
Yew Tree	19	0	24	5	461	509	4%	0%	5%	1%	91%
ASTLEY	18	4	15	1	533	571	3%	1%	3%	0%	93%

DENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number						Percentage				
Corrie	5	12	20	2	303	342	1%	4%	6%	1%	89%
Dane Bank	0	2	23	1	213	239	0%	1%	10%	0%	89%
DWE	13	5	21	10	416	465	3%	1%	5%	2%	89%
Greswell	12	10	14	9	402	447	3%	2%	3%	2%	90%
Linden Road	7	10	5	2	242	266	3%	4%	2%	1%	91%
Manor Green	1	18	26	5	405	455	0%	4%	6%	1%	89%
Poplar Street	29	19	8	0	348	404	7%	5%	2%	0%	86%
Russell Scott	19	3	30	5	368	425	4%	1%	7%	1%	87%
St Anne's	4	1	6	0	203	214	2%	0%	3%	0%	95%
St Stephen's CofE	41	8	4	1	141	195	21%	4%	2%	1%	72%
DENTON CC	18	7	40	10	885	960	2%	1%	4%	1%	92%

HYDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number						Percentage				
Arundale	0	0	8	1	177	186	0%	0%	4%	1%	95%
Bradley Green	10	4	11	0	204	229	4%	2%	5%	0%	89%
Broadbent Fold	3	0	11	0	217	231	1%	0%	5%	0%	94%
Discovery	New School						New School				
Dowson	27	0	15	0	429	471	6%	0%	3%	0%	91%
Flowery Field	101	3	19	2	376	501	20%	1%	4%	0%	75%
Gee Cross	0	0	7	1	215	223	0%	0%	3%	0%	96%
Godley	1	0	4	0	261	266	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
Greenfield	262	7	11	2	20	302	87%	2%	4%	1%	7%
Leigh	169	1	11	2	104	287	59%	0%	4%	1%	36%
Linden Road	7	10	5	2	242	266	3%	4%	2%	1%	91%
Oakfield	9	6	5	0	211	231	4%	3%	2%	0%	91%
Pinfold	0	2	5	1	390	398	0%	1%	1%	0%	98%
St George's	132	0	6	4	76	218	61%	0%	3%	2%	35%
St Paul's	1	0	4	0	246	251	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
HYDE CC	317	6	32	4	550	909	35%	1%	4%	0%	61%

LONGDENDALE PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number						Percentage				
Bradley Green	10	4	11	0	204	229	4%	2%	5%	0%	89%
Broadbottom	0	0	2	1	98	101	0%	0%	2%	1%	97%
Discovery	New School						New School				
Dowson	27	0	15	0	429	471	6%	0%	3%	0%	91%
Godley	1	0	4	0	261	266	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
Gorse Hall	10	2	19	1	422	454	2%	0%	4%	0%	93%
Greenfield	262	7	11	2	20	302	87%	2%	4%	1%	7%
Hollingworth	2	2	4	0	211	219	1%	1%	2%	0%	96%
Mottram	0	0	6	0	130	136	0%	0%	4%	0%	96%
Pinfold	0	2	5	1	390	398	0%	1%	1%	0%	98%
St James'	0	1	7	2	161	171	0%	1%	4%	1%	94%
St Paul's	1	0	4	0	246	251	0%	0%	2%	0%	98%
Stalyhill	7	0	8	0	223	238	3%	0%	3%	0%	94%
Yew Tree	19	0	24	5	461	509	4%	0%	5%	1%	91%
LONGDENDALE	6	4	19	0	700	729	1%	1%	3%	0%	96%

MOSSLEY HOLLINS PARTNER PRIMARY	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White	TOTAL	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed heritage	Chinese or other ethnic group	White
	Number						Percentage				
Buckton Vale	2	0	5	0	204	211	1%	0%	2%	0%	97%
Livingstone	4	5	7	4	142	162	2%	3%	4%	2%	88%
Micklehurst All Saints	13	0	3	2	172	190	7%	0%	2%	1%	91%
Millbrook	1	0	11	0	223	235	0%	0%	5%	0%	95%
Milton	0	0	11	0	227	238	0%	0%	5%	0%	95%
St George's	2	2	9	0	157	170	1%	1%	5%	0%	92%
St Joseph's RC	0	6	6	1	162	175	0%	3%	3%	1%	93%
St Raphael's	1	7	17	0	173	198	1%	4%	9%	0%	87%
MOSSLEY	18	3	14	6	726	767	2%	0%	2%	1%	95%