

## School Admission Admissions 2016/17 - Consultation Survey Response

### 1.0 Introduction

Tower Hamlets Council consulted the public on its school admission arrangements for 2016/17. The aim being to further improve the school admission arrangements for Tower Hamlets schools, so that they are fair and that as many parents as possible gain a place for their child at one of their preferred schools. The consultation covered the following:

#### **(i) Proposed Admissions Policies for Tower Hamlets community schools**

- Nursery School/Class Admissions Policy
- Oversubscription criteria for Nursery Schools and Classes
- Priority criteria for part-time and full-time places
- Primary Schools Admissions Policy
- Oversubscription criteria, including a change to the priority admission (catchment) areas for community school
- Secondary Schools Admissions Policy
- Oversubscription criteria

#### **(ii) Proposed coordinated schemes**

- For reception year of primary school
- For Year 7 of secondary school; and
- For admissions outside of normal points of entry ('In-Year')

#### **(iii) Planned admission number (PAN) for Tower Hamlets Schools**

The consultation was launched the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2014 and ended on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. The consultation lasted for over 8 weeks.

### 2.0 Communication

The table below includes the communication methods used to advertise and promote the consultation.

Item	Communication Medium	Locality	Actioned
Director's Briefing for Governors	All Governors Governors were given notice about the impending consultation.	Director's Briefing Autumn Term Brochure	01/09/2014
Email to neighbouring boroughs	Neighbouring LAs		04/11/2014
Head teachers and school staff	Head Teachers Bulletin	To all Head Teachers	03/11/2014 01/12/2014
Advertising consultation on email signatures	Email signature for Pupil Admission and Impulse Team staff	Pupil Services Team	03/11/2014
Advertising consultation on School Admissions website /consultations webpage / news and event webpage	LBTH Website	Internet	03/11/2014

Item	Communication Medium	Locality	Actioned
Consultation advert x 2	East End Life Newspaper Two adverts were placed at different intervals to allow maximum publicity.	Borough wide	03/11/2014 20/11/2014
Governing Bodies	Email to all governors via Governor Services – to remind governors to complete the consultation.	Borough wide	01/11/2014
Email to parent groups/network	Via Parent & Family Support Service – widely circulated for parents' access.	Parent network/newsletter	11/11/2014
Details of consultation advertised	Media Release	Borough wide	04/11/2014
Consultation meeting to discuss the proposed changes	Public Meeting – notice of meeting widely circulated through the above mediums	Professional Development Centre	26/11/2014
Children Centre Leads	Raise Awareness through publicity at Children's Centres. Children Centre to display notice in their public notice board.	Borough wide	17/11/2014
Ocean Somali Community Association	Governors / Somali Community reps – contacted OSCA directly to disseminate information.	information share	02/12/2014
Collective Of Bangladeshi Governors	Governors/ Bangladeshi community reps – contacted CBSG directly to disseminate information.	information share	02/12/2014
Discussion on consultation held with Forum	Admissions Forum	Professional Development Centre	10/12/2014

### **3.0 Results**

Despite the above methods to engage stakeholders, we have received four responses, all completed online. One response was from a parent, one was from a member of the public, one was from a governor (the school was not stated on the response), and one was classified as 'nothing selected'.

There was a collective response completed by the Tower Hamlets Admissions Forum and comments were also received from the City of London Admissions Forum.

The following analysis shows the outcome of the 4 and the Admissions Forums responses:

**1. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements for admission to Tower Hamlets Nursery Schools and classes in 2016/17, which aim to ensure that children attend their nearest school?** All respondents agreed with the proposed arrangements for TH Nursery Schools admissions 2016/17. The TH Admissions Forum agreed with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to Nursery schools. There was no objection to this from the City of London Admissions Forum.

**2. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools?**

3 out of 4 respondents (75%) disagreed with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools. The TH Admissions Forum also agreed with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools. There was no objection to this from the City of London Admissions Forum.

**3. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in 2016/17?**

75% of respondents (3 people) agreed to proposed arrangements for oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in 2016/17. The TH Admissions Forum agreed with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools. There was no objection to this from the City of London Admissions Forum.

**4a. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating year 7 and reception year admissions?**

3 of the 4 respondents (75%) agreed with TH's scheme for coordinating year 7 and reception year admissions. The TH Admissions Forum agreed with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools. There was no objection to this from the City of London Admissions Forum.

**4b. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating in-year admissions?**

75% of respondents (3 people) disagreed to the TH's scheme for co-ordinating in-year admissions. The TH Admissions Forum commented on this and their comments are listed below.

**5a. Do you agree with the planned admission numbers (PAN) for Tower Hamlets schools in 2016/17?**

3 of the 4 respondents (75%) agreed to the PAN for TH schools in 2016/17. The TH Admissions Forum commented on this and their comments are listed below.

The following questions were for school governing bodies only, of which there was only one response.

**5b. Do you agree with the PAN for your school?**

All of the respondents agreed with their schools' Planned Admission Number

**5c. Do you agree with the PAN for those schools whose admissions impact on your own school?**

All of the respondents agreed.

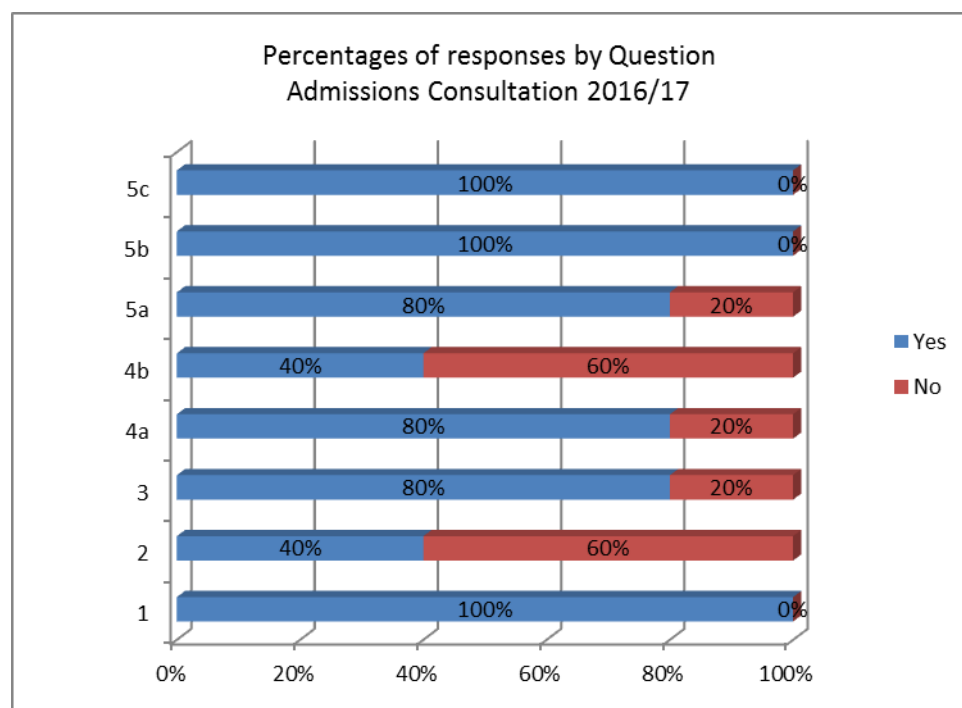
#### 4.0 Breakdown of survey responses in numbers (including the Admissions Forum)

	Yes	No
<b>1. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements for admission to Tower Hamlets Nursery Schools and classes in 2016/17, which aim to ensure that children attend their nearest school?</b>	5	0
<b>2. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools?</b>	2	3
<b>3. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in 2016/17?</b>	4	1
<b>4a. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating year 7 and reception year admissions?</b>	4	1
<b>4b. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating in-year admissions?</b>	2	3
<b>5a. Do you agree with the planned admission numbers (PAN) for Tower Hamlets schools in 2016/17?</b>	4	1
The next two questions are for school governing bodies only		
<b>5b. Do you agree with the PAN for your school?</b>	1	0
<b>5c. Do you agree with the PAN for those schools whose admissions impact on your own school?</b>	1	0

#### Breakdown of responses in percentages

	Yes	No
<b>1. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements for admission to Tower Hamlets Nursery Schools and classes in 2016/17, which aim to ensure that children attend their nearest school?</b>	100%	0%
<b>2. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community primary schools?</b>	40%	60%
<b>3. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in 2016/17?</b>	80%	20%
<b>4a. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating year 7 and reception year admissions?</b>	80%	20%
<b>4b. Do you agree with the Tower Hamlets scheme for co-ordinating in-year admissions?</b>	40%	60%
<b>5a. Do you agree with the planned admission numbers (PAN) for Tower Hamlets schools in 2016/17?</b>	80%	20%
The next two questions are for school governing bodies only		
<b>5b. Do you agree with the PAN for your school?</b>	100%	0%
<b>5c. Do you agree with the PAN for those schools whose admissions impact on your own school?</b>	100%	0%

**Percentage of responses from stakeholders**



**4.1 Comments from survey**

Question	Respondent type	Comments
1	'Parent'	<p><i>'This is to ensure consistency in the way places are offered and, where possible, that children attend the same school for their nursery and primary education'</i></p> <p><i>I wholeheartedly support that statement and TRULY REGRET that it was not the policy in force when my child started nursery in 2013, she didn't get a place in reception in any of the 6 schools in her application leading to the horrendous appeal process, always a disappointment and a massive waste of energy for Parents. So hopefully the new policy will save young children the trouble to start all over again in another school and the parents the hassle of going through useless appeal procedure and travelling to new school, building new relationship with another</i></p>

		<i>school, getting new uniforms.</i>
2	<i>'Parent'</i>	<i>"Some applicants outside the catchment area live closer to the school applied for than other applicants who live within the catchment area, in this case priority should be given to the applicant living closer to school even if they don't live in the catchment area. The catchment area should be defined in concentric circle rather than using the ward map, it just doesn't make sense, what matters is not the ward boundaries but how far a child has to walk from home to school twice a day."</i>
4b	<i>'Member of Public'</i>	<i>This policy does not mention that priority is given to children out of school during the year above children who are waiting for a place in a school where they have a sibling but are presently in another school. This is wrong as it creates too much strain on families trying to get siblings to different schools. Priority should be given to children to move schools above those with no school place as ultimately the child who is waiting for a place in the same school as its sibling is will not be taking an additional space only creating one in a different school, which can then be filled by a child without a school place, assuming no other child is waiting for a place with a sibling in that school. That way more children will be placed together relieving the pressure on families, the school in looking after the child at the end of the day, reduce lateness, and reduce transport costs. As the number of spaces in the Borough ultimately remains the same, just as many children who are without a school place will be placed in a school, the only overall difference being that many children will be placed in the same school as their siblings. Please take this into account when you are determining your admissions policy. It does not mention any of this in the policy."</i>

#### **4.2 Response to comments**

1. This is a positive comment highlighting the intended effect of the new policy. The statement also gives an insight into the impact on families and the pressures the new policy alleviates.
2. Tower Hamlets has adopted the system of having fixed geographical catchment areas containing schools as oppose to each school having its own catchment area which is what the respondent is describing in the comment. The catchment areas do not follow ward boundaries. Natural barriers such as canals and major road have been used to define catchment area boundaries. The Catchment areas have also

been designed to ensure the nearest school lies within the same catchment area, however it has to be noted that with new developments being completed this may not be the case for a small number of pupils in the future. The catchment areas will be continued to be monitored to ensure that it is achieving the best outcomes for families.

- 4b. Places for in-year admissions are in line with the admissions policy. However, there are instances where children admitted to a school, in accordance with the Fair Access Protocol, take precedence over those on a waiting list. These can often include children who are out of school. Pupil Services seeks to place children who are out of school, at a school at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children are receiving an education, and that the LA is meeting its statutory obligation and safeguarding duties. The comment above will be taken into consideration when reviewing the criteria in future.

### **4.3 Response from Admissions Forums**

#### **Tower Hamlets Admissions Forum**

Whilst the Forum had agreed with the proposed admissions arrangements, they also made the following comments:

*4b – Diocesan Schools are advised they must comply with the agreed in-year arrangements, however individual schools may decide not to.*

*The Forum also requested that future year's consultation should seek the views from the Phase Consultative groups.*

*5a – Despite planned expansions and developments notified, there is a request from the Forum for the development or expansion of the previous Bow School site to be brought forward and for school places to be given priority in all decisions.*

#### **City of London Admissions Forum**

The City of London Admission Forum did not complete the full questionnaire but have submitted comments related to secondary school priority zones, which can be accommodated under question 3.

**Question 3. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements and oversubscription criteria for admission to community secondary schools in 2016/17?**

***Response is in relation to the Tower Hamlets Priority Zones for secondary school:***

*Priority Zone A, preference to Mulberry and Stepney Green Maths & Computing College*

*Priority Zone B, preference to Swanlea.*

*“Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on Tower Hamlets school admissions arrangements.*

*Priority zones A and B are coterminous with Tower Hamlets borough boundary and do not extend into the City of London. We would be grateful if you could re-visit the priority area to include Middlesex Street and Mansell Street Estates.*

*The closest secondary schools for families on the east side of the City (Mansell Street and Middlesex Street estates) are located within Tower Hamlets.*

*There is a large Bangladeshi population within the two estates who are predominantly Muslims. Some families prefer their children to attend to attend single sex schools; Mulberry School for girls is the preferred choice for Bangladeshi girls.*

*The table below shows the number of successful applications to the three schools in the past 5 years.*

<i>Mulberry</i>	<i>Stepney Green Maths &amp; Computing College</i>	<i>Swanlea</i>
<i>2013 -14 (Sept 2014 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 0</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>	<i>2013 -14 (Sept 2014 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 2 (all lower preferences)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>	<i>2013 -14 (Sept 2014 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 2 (all lower preferences)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 1</i>
<i>2012 – 13 (Sept 2013 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 4 (1 lower preference)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 3</i>	<i>2012 – 13 (Sept 2013 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 3 (all lower preferences)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>	<i>2012 – 13 (Sept 2013 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 1 (lower preference)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>
<i>2011 -12 (Sept 2012 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 1</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 1</i>	<i>2011 -12 (Sept 2012 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 0</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>	<i>2011 -12 (Sept 2012 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 0</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>
<i>2010 -11 (Sept 2011 entry):</i>	<i>2010 -11 (Sept 2011 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 2</i>	<i>2010 -11 (Sept 2011 entry):</i>



<i>Number of applications = 1</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 1</i>	<i>1 (Lower preference)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 1</i>	<i>Number of applications = 1 (Lower preference)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>
<i>2009 -10 (Sept 2010 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 2 (1 lower preference)</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 1</i>	<i>2009 -10 (Sept 2010 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 0</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>	<i>2009 -10 (Sept 2010 entry):</i>  <i>Number of applications = 0</i>  <i>Number of successful applications = 0</i>

*As you can see the numbers of applications to the three schools are very small. City residents who have expressed their first preference at any of the three schools were successful in getting places even though they are out of the priority zone. Therefore I am sure you'll agree that including the two estates in the priority zone will not add additional pressure on school places.*