



# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Children's Services

Chairman – Brenda Jennings

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**Date** 4 July 2005

Dear Parents

### Secondary School Admissions Policy

I understand that you submitted a letter to the 9 June meeting of the Admissions Forum in connection with the Secondary Schools Admissions Policy. The Forum requested that the letter be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on Children's Services at its next meeting. I am writing to explain to you how and when Overview and Scrutiny will consider your letter.

Firstly, it may be useful to set out the purpose of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Their role is to consider, and where necessary question, decisions made by the County Council Cabinet. Also, they monitor the way that services are provided and make recommendations on whether new policies or changes to existing policies are needed. OSCs are not decision-making bodies. They can make recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member or to Cabinet, who can decide whether to accept or reject the recommendations. OSC meetings are held in public. The Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has discretion over the timing and appropriateness of agenda items.

The Children's Services OSC will be considering the topic of Secondary School Admissions Policy at its 15 September meeting. The Cabinet Member for Schools and the Strategic Director, Schools, have been invited to attend. As you are aware, I have had correspondence and a telephone conversation with Mrs. Gamble regarding her request for a group of parents to make a presentation to the Committee on the topic of "the consequences of the new secondary school admissions policy on children in the south of the county". I have agreed with Mrs. Gamble that one parent representative is invited to speak to the Committee in September. Other parents are welcome to attend as visitors, but will not be invited to speak.

Since members will be discussing the subject in September, I propose considering your letter then rather than at the July meeting. Therefore, I shall arrange for the papers which were submitted to the Admissions Forum to be circulated with the agenda papers for the 15 September meeting (copies of the agenda papers will be sent to you). In this way, members of the Committee will have an opportunity to consider the points raised in your letter and appendices ahead of the meeting.

I trust that this sets out the process clearly. However, if you have any questions please contact me, or the Policy Officer supporting the Committee, Jackie Fisk (01296-382783, [jfisk@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:jfisk@buckscc.gov.uk)). I look forward to meeting you in September.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Jennings