

**Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Over the course of the last two meetings members have discussed the issue of school admissions and have had presentations from both parents and officers of the County Council. In order to bring this cycle of discussion and consideration to a useful conclusion, members are requested to consider the following proposition that, if it were agreed, would form the basis for a report to the Cabinet on December 19.**

The Children's Services OSC:

- Accepts that it is too late to influence the admissions procedure for 2006
- Recognises that there are always likely to be disappointed parents and pupils whichever admissions criteria are adopted
- Accepts that the decision to include Burnham Grammar School as a third catchment school for all children in area 11 in order to deal with the lack of capacity in the original catchment area was legally correct. However members consider that the decision to do this at such a late stage without wider consultation than just that required to conform to legal requirements was unfortunate
- Recommends that, if it becomes apparent following the publication of the 2006 11+ results that the problems experienced by pupils in the Denham and Gerrards Cross areas in gaining admittance to their catchment area schools are going to be repeated, then a thorough review of the admissions system should take place in time for changes to be made for the September 2007 intake
- Recommends that, in order to reduce the number of appeals, there should be an immediate return to the system whereby, prior to appeals, primary schools provide information on a pupil's suitability for grammar school education
- Recommends that there should be a review of the effectiveness of the County Council's modelling of future patterns of pupil numbers and how they relate to capacity particularly in the south of the County but also considering the growth to take place in Aylesbury Vale
- Requests that the Director of Children's Services (once the post becomes operative) provides information to the Committee on how the proposals contained within the recent Schools White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All", would affect admissions policy in the future if they were to be implemented