



Report to Schools Forum

Title:	Admission Appeals Charging – Update.
Committee date:	24 th March 2020
Responsible Officer	Liz Williams, Head of Finance Children’s Service
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1. Recommendations

1.1. Schools Forum is asked to agree the following proposals:

- a) To agree, by vote, the Admission Appeals Charging scheme to be adopted for one year from 1st April 2020 for the financial year 2020-21;
- b) To note the charges for future years will be agreed by the local authority taking into account sufficiency of charges to cover costs (moving to a fully traded basis in future year(s)).

2. Purpose of Report

2.1. This report updates members of Schools Forum on the outcome of PEB and BASH meetings, and requires Schools Forum to make a final decision on the Admissions Appeals Charging scheme/rates to be adopted for one financial year from 1st April 2020.

3. Executive Summary

3.1. At its meeting on 21st January, Schools Forum agreed that charging for Admissions Appeals should now apply to all schools in line with the DfE guidance. Schools Forum also agreed that the options for charging be considered at Primary Executive Board (PEB) and Buckinghamshire Association of Secondary School Heads (BASH). PEB and BASH considered a paper shown at Appendix 1, detailing the options for charging a standard fee from April 2020. PEB at its meeting on 6th

February 2020 expressed a preference for Option 2. BASH at its meeting on 7th February 2020 expressed a preference for Option 3, shown below:

PEB Option 2: to agree a charging system that reflects the ‘complexity’ of the appeal. As presented to Schools Forum in January:

£260	per unqualified grammar school appeal with SRP*		
£240	per unqualified grammar school without SRP* appeal		
£220	per qualified grammar school appeal		
£220	per upper school appeal		
£190	per primary appeal (not ICS)		
£150	per ICS appeal.		
	*SRP = selection review panel		

BASH Option 3: Schools Forum requested an alternative charging scheme – based on averages for the following:

£235	Grammar (average)
£211	Upper Sch./Primary Sch.
£150	Infant Class Size

3.2. Schools Forum also agreed to an annual review of the charging scheme, in particular the sufficiency of charges to cover costs (moving to a fully traded basis in future year(s)) and to consider the impact on schools.



Report to the PEB and BASH

Title: Admission Appeals - Charging All Schools

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3. Purpose of report

- 3.1. Schools Forum at its meeting on 21st January 2020, considered the proposals for a new Admission Appeals charging scheme for all schools in order to comply with Department of Education (DfE) guidance. Schools Forum agreed that a consistent charging scheme needs to be implemented across all schools for the financial year 2020-21. Before the final charges can be agreed, Schools Forum recommended that further discussion be held at PEB and BASH, and the outcome of this discussion be reported back to inform the final decision to be taken by Schools Forum in March 2020.
- 3.2. This report sets out the new charging scheme as presented to Schools Forum in January and an alternative scheme. The proposal is to charge all schools, including Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that currently receive the appeals service free of charge. Schools that are their own admission authority - academies, maintained Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools are currently charged for this service. Parents cannot be charged for Admission Appeals.

4. The Admissions Appeals Service

- 4.1. The majority of schools in Buckinghamshire use the Council's Admissions Appeals Service. However, the admission authority remains responsible for ensuring those functions are carried out properly.
- 4.2. BCC's Education Appeals Team administers the admission appeals process, in accordance with the statutory Admission Appeals Code. Details of the service and



the success rates for appeals are readily available to the public on the BCC's website, and to schools on the 'traded services' days.

- 4.3. Currently, the Education Appeals Team enters into individual (usually 2 year) contracts with academies, Foundation and Voluntary Aided schools under which they are charged a standard fee per appeal of £212 or £218 (depending on the contract renewal date).

5. Options for Charging a standard fee from April 2020

- 5.1. **Option 1:** to extend the current charging scheme of £218 standard fee to **all schools.**

- 5.2. **Option 2:** to agree a charging system that reflects the 'complexity' of the appeal. As presented to Schools Forum in January:

£260	per unqualified grammar school appeal with SRP*		
£240	per unqualified grammar school without SRP* appeal		
£220	per qualified grammar school appeal		
£220	per upper school appeal		
£190	per primary appeal (not ICS)		
£150	per ICS appeal.		
	*SRP = selection review panel		

- 5.3. **Option 3:** Schools Forum requested an alternative charging scheme – based on averages for the following:

£235	Grammar (average)
£211	Upper Sch./Primary Sch.
£150	Infant Class Size

6. Review of charges

- 6.1. Recent analysis shows that existing charging rates do not fully recover costs – It is acknowledged that there are many variables in individual appeals. The report to Schools Forum recommended an annual review of the charging scheme, in particular the sufficiency of charges to cover costs (moving to a fully traded basis in future year(s)) and the impact on schools.