

XXXXXXXXXXXX
Lingfield
Surrey
RH7 6xx
December 12th 2007

Dear Andrew

We are writing with respect to Surrey CC's proposed admissions policy for Tandridge for 2009 in which it has been recommended that Lingfield and Dormansland would both be excluded from the catchment area for Oxted secondary school.

You will be aware that the Adjudicator's determination of 27th September 2007 found that the admissions policy applied by Surrey CC for 2008 admissions failed to secure reasonable confidence of admission to at least one reasonably accessible school for children living in Lingfield and Dormansland (paras 26 and 28).

This determination was reached despite Surrey CC's assertion that children living in Lingfield and Dormansland have reasonable access to alternative schools to Oxted.

As such, given that the Adjudicator highlighted that the arrangement in place for 2008 admissions for Lingfield and Dormansland failed to meet some of the mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code, we were very surprised to see that Surrey CC's proposal to address this issue was to effectively take away one of the existing choices for children in these villages. We don't understand how this has helped to improve confidence of admission to at least one reasonably accessible school – as the paper to the Executive points out, this action would remove any opportunity of Lingfield and Dormansland pupils gaining a place at Oxted.

It would help our understanding if you could provide us with some evidence that would provide reasonable confidence that what will be three classes per year from Lingfield and Dormansland would be able to be accommodated by Imberhorne and Sackville schools. We could then review this and decide whether we feel the reassurance you can provide would meet the requirements of the Code. From our own contact with W Sussex, our opinion is that we wouldn't have reasonable confidence of gaining places at these two schools.

There are a number of points made in the Officer Report to the Executive dated 6th November 2007 that we would also like to understand further:

- The assumption seems to be that the Adjudicator required a review of the catchment area. Our interpretation was that this was one of the options suggested for Surrey to consider and that – if anything – it would be the continued inclusion of areas to the north of the catchment (where there are also plenty of nearby alternative schools) that should be reviewed
- The Adjudicator's proposal of distance to nearest alternative school as a tie-breaker was rejected as Surrey believe that this won't affect the outcome for Lingfield and Dormansland residents. Has Surrey modelled this tie-break? If so, it would be helpful if we could see the outcomes. It would also be helpful if we

could understand the oversubscription pattern into Oxted by having a copy of the map that we believe was supplied to the Horsley group that shows where the pupils admitted to Oxted in 2007 live so we can undertake some modelling ourselves.

We recognise that there is a problem that needs to be resolved regarding admissions into Oxted School and we would like to work with you to identify alternative solutions.

I would be grateful if you could indicate by return when you may be able to provide the information requested.

Many thanks in advance

Yours sincerely

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