

Report to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools

**CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION POLICY
GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITY AREA (GPA)**

District 1 – Lancaster

01109 – Morecambe Community High School

Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham GPAs

Central Lancaster High School has historically shared a GPA with Skerton High School. This covers the areas of Thurnham, Lancaster (part), Scotforth, Quernmore, Ellel, Caton with Littledale, Cockerham and Over Wyrresdale.

Morecambe and Heysham High Schools share a GPA which covers Slyne with Hest, Lancaster (part), Morecambe and Heysham, Heaton with Oxcliffe, Middleton and Overton.

At admission appeals during 2014 parents and independent panels have referred to the fact that a small area of the Lancaster parish – north of the River Lune – is in fact much closer in proximity to Morecambe High than Overton to the south of the GPA shared by Morecambe and Heysham High Schools.

Proposed Changes for 2016/2017 (September 2016 intakes)

The Local Authority is the admission authority for all three of the community high schools concerned.

It has consulted about a small area of the Lancaster parish being shared from September 2016 between Central Lancaster High and Morecambe High. This is the area north of the River Lune (Scale Hall, Ryelands, Hare Runs, Beaumont and Skerton) – map attached. The reasons for proposing this minor change are:-

- That families in the Overton area of the Morecambe and Heysham GPA have priority for admission to Morecambe High School despite being much farther away from this school than those resident in the above part of Lancaster parish (and also being nearer to Heysham High)
- The closure of Skerton High has removed the nearest community school option for the families in this part of Lancaster parish
- Parents / children having to cross the river (traffic / transport concerns) for their only current defined GPA school – Central Lancaster High.

When implemented this change will be in relation to admissions co-ordination only and would not confer any individual parental rights to assistance with home to school transport. The Local Authority would look at individual parental preferences after offers had been made and at nearest schools / academies to home addresses in applying its transport policy (including Our Lady Catholic High, Central Lancaster High etc).