

Option 1 – Provide this service to all schools for no charge

For	Against
We will continue to provide a robust, legally compliant and independent admission appeals service which we know ensures that the vast majority of parents applying for a place at a Cambridgeshire school are able to exercise their legal right to appeal.	There may be an increase in the number of appeals heard, as there is no cost implication for own admission authority schools when refusing places. This will make identification of the amount to be retained each year difficult.
We would look to manage from within the overall available Central Services to School Block (CSSB), therefore we would not anticipate any impact on other services/budgets. A sum of £110,000 would be required for this purpose.	
Continued low level of complaints regarding the service both to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) and the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).	As there will be no financial implication for own admission authority schools by refusing the admission of a child and the subsequent right of appeal, it may be more difficult to negotiate with a school regarding the admission of a child.

Option 2 – Provide this as a chargeable service to all schools

For	Against
Schools will stop and consider the possible financial impact of their decision to refuse a place	Where schools are restricted by Infant Class Size Legislation they will be penalised financially for being popular
The amount of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) currently retained to cover the cost of delivery of this service to LA maintained schools could be distributed back to schools in their budgets	This is such a small amount, £203 per school, the impact on schools will be minimal
	For maintained schools this will add an additional financial burden which they have not previously had to consider when budget setting.

Option 3 – Provide this as a free service to Voluntary Controlled and Community Schools only

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
<p>The reduction in the volume of appeals would create capacity within the current Education Admission Appeals and Fair Access Officer role which would allow for the development of this role to support Fair Access and Inclusion functions further.</p>	<p>Funding for this would need to be found within existing budgets as this could not be funded through the CSSB of DSG just for LA admission authority schools</p>
	<p>Own Admission Authority Schools would be required to find alternative ways of meeting this statutory duty. This could be more costly, less consistent and extremely difficult for the LA to monitor to ensure compliance with the School Admission Appeals Code.</p>
	<p>The continued provision of a robust service by the LA would be at risk. As more and more schools become their own admission authority, future job security would possibly affect retention of existing experienced staff and recruitment of suitable staff in the future.</p>
	<p>Significant risk of challenge from the DfE, own admission authority schools, the LGO and ESFA, potentially in terms of a Judicial Review.</p>