

Appendix C1:
Open text responses to questions 4 and 5 (themed)

Q4. What do you feel is unclear (asked of those who said ‘*Quite clearly*’ or ‘*Not clearly*’)?

i. Clarity / accessibility / how information is displayed

- It is inherently complicated and the text provided is adequate. A set of examples as an appendix could provide additional clarity to make it easier to navigate for parents / people who do not operate in admissions on a regular basis.
- Would have been helpful to have the oversubscription criteria linked to this consultation.
- Why don't you have a page with the details rather than PDF downloads which I can't access from my phone? No reason you can't have the contents of the pages on a webpage.
- Explanation is clear but wordy and long-winded. For parents with literacy difficulties, something more succinct would be helpful.
- There is too much jargon.
- I've no idea where it is.
- Not sure where to find them.

ii. More information on specific elements – catchment areas, waiting lists, school places etc.

- I would like to know the current catchment area and what the proposed expansion of catchment area would be, please.
- It's really difficult to find out catchment areas.
- I'd like more information about waiting lists and likelihood of admissions.
- Section 8, Admission to 6th Form includes a mixed reference to GCSE grades as letters and numbers. Can this be clarified as the grades do not all equate directly from the letters to numbers system (I understand grade C is a 4/5)?
Section 3, SEN should refer to EHC plans not statements.

- How school manages number of kids starting reception and what are the real reasons for mix ages classes?
- What happens if you don't get your first or second choice of school? Can you be sent outside your catchment area? If you put a school down as second choice are you unlikely to get a place there?
- List of oversubscribed schools.
- How this will disadvantage other children outside of the catchment or not part of feeder school.
- It is unclear whether the extension to the King Edward VII catchment is an extension to include just pupils at Hallam primary school; to include Hallam Infant/Junior as a feeder school, or; to include the catchment area for Hallam primary in the catchment for King Edward VII. It is also unclear when any proposed changes would take effect (for the King Edward's catchment proposal and also Tapton Trust's proposal to give priority to Hallam Junior children). Will our child who is currently in Y5 be impacted??

iii. **Miscellaneous**

- I am not clear why the consultation is necessary.

Q5: Please use the space below to add any further comments about the admission arrangements (oversubscription criteria, catchment areas or admission numbers).

i. **Issues – oversubscription**

- I currently have a daughter in Silverdale School which has seen additional intakes of students over the last year or so. This has significantly impacted on students in terms of space, lunchtime routines, areas to eat lunch and process the increased student numbers during the lunch period. As a parent, I find this very frustrating, particularly when Mercia School is currently under-subscribed. The additional children should be using the new school, not overcrowding existing schools who are beyond capacity already – such as Silverdale.

ii. Issues – catchment areas

- The schools admission criteria is unfair since it is unjust that good students will not have access to good schools if the parents do not live in the good school area. In my opinion, the school allocation should be dependent on capability of the students and not on catchment only.
- I feel it would be fairer to count 'sibling' above catchment only as having children at two separate schools when they're young would be really difficult and could impact on employment, health, relationships and the wellbeing of parents and children.
- Sibling status should be prioritised as it is so difficult for families to manage the extra-curricular commitments, travel, parents evening, events, and school holidays where family members are in different schools.
- It's simply unfair that best school such as King Edward and Tapton may be even more difficult for those kids outside the catchment & not part of feeder school.
- I think more consideration should be given to non-catchment children in feeder schools, particularly when they live closer to the school than many of the children in catchment. Our catchment boundary makes very little sense and children in catchment walk past our front door to get to the school.
- We currently live on Hallamshire Road, but our Y5 son attends Nether Green Juniors, along with his Y3 brother. Currently, this means they are in a feeder school for King Edward's, but catchment for Tapton. Our concern with the proposals are that whilst children currently in the same catchment area as us, but attending Hallam Juniors will have a better chance of getting their chosen place at Tapton, we will be 'doubly disadvantaged' as our chances of getting our son into King Edward's may be lessened, due to the widening of the catchment area. Where would this leave us? This seems fundamentally unfair given we are in the same catchment area. Mercia is simply not viable given location and public transport links and especially given that our son is the youngest in his year with a birthday on 28th of August. We would strongly oppose these changes for the reasons outlined above. The overall impact of these proposals seems to act as a significant detriment to children living in the Hallam catchment area, but not attending Hallam Primary. It's not acceptable

to make these changes at short notice (i.e. there is not enough time to choose to apply to move our son to another school). At least 3 years' notice would seem fairer so that parents can take this into account when making applications for transition from infant to junior school. It is vital also that the local authority proposals and Tapton Trust proposals are looked at in conjunction with one another so that the wider negative impact on families, and children like ours are considered.

iii. Requests for (further) information

- I have followed the online instructions, but after only two stages I find myself here, being asked to say whether or not you have explained the oversubscription criteria Very clearly, Quite clearly or Not clearly. En route to this page, all I have seen is a statement indicating that you are not considering any changes to the oversubscription area but are thinking of adding Hallam Primary School to the King Edward's catchment area. Is that all? What you have written is not, by any means, an explanation, but more a bald statement. In order for people like me (I am a parent) to be able to comment, we need to be given more information than that. I would be grateful to be sent a map of the present and proposed catchment area for King Edward's, together with any similar maps for other parts of the city. I have previous experience, as a parent of a child at Westways Primary School, of "consultations" such as this, where, as now, little or no information was provided before the actual "consultation" occurred. If you are duty-bound to consult, you should comply fully rather than in this short-cut way. For instance, what representations have been made to you in the course of your work, prompting you to add a further part of the city to the catchment area? Do you have a record of any such representations, or is this proposal something that the Council's officers came up with on their own initiative? I look forward to an early reply, so that any further comments I might want to make can be made before the deadline. Thank you in anticipation of your assistance *[contact details provided]*
- It would be great if clear and concise information could be sent to Tenant and Residents Associations as we are approached by lots of parents each year

and asked to help with appeals. If we had the correct info it could save all of us time and money!

iv. Miscellaneous

- My son will be going to secondary school in 2021 and I hope this won't affect him.