

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to: CABINET

Report of: Corporate Director Children & Young People

Date of Decision: 13 February 2018

SUBJECT: ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITY CO-ORDINATED SCHEME 2019/2020

Key Decision: Yes **Relevant Forward Plan Ref:** 004681/2018

If not in the Forward Plan: **Chief Executive approved**
(please "X" box) **O&S Chair approved**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s) **Councillor Carl Rice - Children, Families & Schools**

Relevant O&S Chair: **Councillor Susan Barnett - Schools, Children & Families**

Wards affected: **All Wards**

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1. To report the outcome of the consultation on the 'Admission Arrangements' for community and voluntary controlled schools, primary and secondary school 'Admission Numbers' and the proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools for the academic year 2019/2020.
- 1.2. To agree the 'Admission Arrangements' for community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in Appendix 1, the 'Admission Numbers' for community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in Appendix 2a & 2b, and agree the proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools (Appendix 3) for the academic year 2019/2020.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

That Cabinet:

- 2.1. Approves the Admission Arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for September 2019/2020, as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. Approves the Published Admission Numbers for September 2019 for community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix 2(a), including the proposed change in the 'Published Admission Number' for Harborne Primary School, Park Hill Primary School, St Benedict's Infant School and Yenton Primary School and note the Published Admission numbers for academies and foundation and voluntary aided schools, as set out in Appendix 2(b)

- 2.3. Approves the Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools for the academic year 2019/2020, as set out in Appendix 3.
- 2.4. Notes the intention to begin a debate prior to and as part of the consultation process for setting Admission Arrangements for 2020/21 on how to achieve the greater inclusion of pupils in local accessible schools that meet their special needs. This will involve working with Academy Trusts, the Dioceses and other stakeholders to consider how these arrangements will operate, how to evidence and measure need and how to provide sufficient accessible places across the whole city in a wide range of schools.

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3. Consultation:

Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended. To this end, consultation on proposed Admission Numbers, Admission Arrangements and the Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme for the September 2019 intake has taken place from the 11 December 2017 to the 22 January 2018 with the following:-

3.1. Internal

- An email was sent to all members inviting comments on the proposed Admission Arrangements.

3.2. External

- Governing Bodies of community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools in Birmingham.
- Governing Bodies of academies, voluntary aided and foundation primary and secondary schools (admission authorities) in Birmingham.
- Neighbouring local authorities (admission authorities that share a boundary with Birmingham).
- An email was sent to all Birmingham schools asking them to include in their newsletters details of where parents could view the proposed admission arrangements.
- Information regarding the consultation was included on the Schools Noticeboard.
- The consultation was published on the Birmingham City Website to ensure all Birmingham residents and parents of all children aged between 2 and 18 had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation.
- Consultation with the religious bodies representing the schools of a religious denomination.
- The consultation was published on the Be Heard website. Consultation was based on the proposed Admission Arrangements for community and voluntary controlled

schools (Appendix 1), the Proposed Admission Numbers set out in Appendix 2a & 2b and the proposed Scheme for Coordinated Admissions to schools (Appendix 3).

3.3. Consultation outcome on Birmingham Local Authority's Proposed Admission Arrangements, Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme and Proposed Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2019/2020;

3.3.1 17 responses were received in total, respondents can respond to one or more areas of the consultation. The responses have been separated in to the relevant categories by numbers as stated below.

<u>Category</u>		<u>Feedback/ responses</u>
Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme	-	10
Proposed Admission Arrangements	-	10
Proposed Published Admissions Numbers	-	8
Other	-	1
Comments made	-	12
No comment made	-	5

3.3.2 The nature and detail of the responses were varied and included comments related to academies, disability care for adults and children, the sibling rule, the process for the verification of school applicant's home addresses and the PAN increase for a particular school. Following consideration of all the responses made (Please see Appendix 4 for full details) no changes were made to the proposed Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme or PAN's

3.3.3 8 of the responses made reference to Harborne Primary School; these responses vary and are in regards to the application of the proposed increase to the published admissions number and proposed creation of an annex. These issues will also be considered by the relevant officers as part of the Harborne School's school organisation consultation process which is outside of the Local Authority Admission Arrangements determination process.

In respect of the Harborne annex there is a related full business case report addressing issues related to the capital project.

4. Compliance Issues

4.1. Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

Yes – consistent with the Council's policies around education and safeguarding.

4.2. Financial Implications (How will decisions be carried out within existing finances and Resources?)

The costs associated with these admission arrangements are funded from the School Admissions Service budget, Directorate for Children & Young People. Where additional planned places are referred to in Appendix 2a, the associated Full Business Cases brought forward for approval will detail the funding arrangements.

4.3. Legal Implications

This report exercises powers contained in Part III of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and discharges the duties contained in sections 88C and 88M of the Act and regulations made under the Act (The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 in relation to, respectively, determining the admission arrangements for maintained schools for which the authority is the Admission Authority and formulating a scheme for co-ordinating the arrangements for the admission of pupils to maintained schools and academies in the authority's area. All admission authorities, of which the local authority is one, are required to set ('determine') admission arrangements annually by 28 February. The arrangements so determined will apply to the next-but-one academic year (i.e. arrangements determined on 28 February 2018 will apply to the academic year 2019/20). Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements by 31 January each year. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least every 7 years. The local authority is also required to determine on an annual basis a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme which is to apply to the next-but-one academic year and to inform the Secretary of State that such a scheme has been adopted by no later than 28 February each year. Where substantial changes are proposed to the Co-ordinated Scheme from that adopted from the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area.

4.4. Public Sector Equality Duty (see separate guidance note)

The local authority has a statutory duty to co-ordinate centrally the admission arrangements of all maintained schools and academies in its area. The admission arrangements aim to provide for equality of access by parents and their children. The authority's objective admission criteria do not disadvantage particular social groups or those with special educational needs. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed on 8 July 2014 (EA000124), and the need for a full assessment was not indicated.

The Equality Impact Assessment will ensure the service monitors actions including; managers monitoring the use of the comments, compliments and complaints process taking particular account of equality and diversity; managers to monitor the number of preferences not received and the number of unrealistic preferences received.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

5.1. Birmingham local authority has consulted annually on its admission arrangements including published admission numbers for community and controlled schools and the local authority co-ordinated scheme.

5.2. Background Information:

5.2.1 Admission authorities must set (determine) admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, it is a statutory requirement that the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. The proposed

Admission Arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools include the criteria by which schools places are allocated when a school receives more applications than places.

- 5.2.2 The principal changes to the Proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools are further details regarding the sibling definition and the length of time before waiting lists are made available to parents after the offer of places for Secondary Transfers and Reception class intake.
- 5.2.3 The local authority is also required to determine on an annual basis a Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme which is to apply to the next-but-one academic year and to inform the Secretary of State that such a scheme has been adopted by no later than 28 February each year. Where substantial changes are proposed to the Co-ordinated Scheme from that adopted from the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area.
- 5.2.4 The co-ordinated admission scheme includes key dates for coordinating admissions with other admission authorities for the normal secondary transfers, entry to reception class, year 2-3 and year 14-19, appeals and waiting list arrangements.
- 5.2.5 The substantial changes to the proposed Co-ordinated Scheme are the key dates for coordinating the admissions to 14-19 schools; these are proposed to be brought in line with the same dates used for coordinating the secondary transfer process to fully comply with the School Admissions Code (2014).
- 5.2.6 The other substantive changes are clarification to the definition and process for deferred entry for reception class including part-time education and details for changes to the process for managing late applications.
- 5.2.7 All admission authorities must participate in co-ordination and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme.
- 5.2.8 The published admission numbers (PAN) make reference to Resource Bases. Resource bases are units at mainstream schools with specially resourced provision (staff and facilities) to support children that have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The number of pupils admitted to resource bases is not included in a school's overall PAN.
- 5.2.9 Birmingham City Council is working with the Inclusion Commission to support the greater inclusion within local schools of children with a range of special educational needs, as this enables them to achieve their fullest potential by participating in and contributing to all aspects of life.
- 5.2.10 As part of this aim, the council has been supporting the development of accessible mainstream schools, although at present children with special educational needs and disabilities who could benefit from attending these establishments, but who do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), do not receive a higher priority to be admitted to the schools.
- 5.2.11 Given the diversity of the schools across the city, the council cannot achieve this inclusion goal alone and will begin a debate prior to and as part of the consultation process for setting Admission Arrangements for 2020/21, on how to achieve the greater inclusion of these pupils in local accessible schools that meet their special needs. This will involve working with Academy Trusts, the Dioceses and other stakeholders to

consider which special educational needs and disabilities require higher priority, how to evidence and measure need and how to provide sufficient accessible places across the whole city in a wide range of schools.

5.2.12 When this work is completed, it is anticipated that a higher admission priority for specific groups of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities will be added to the admission criteria of relevant schools in time for consultation on their 2020/2021 admission arrangements.

5.3. The timeline for consultation and determining admission arrangements

Monday 11 December 2017 – Monday 22 January 2018

Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements and Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Proposed Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme for all publicly funded schools was published on the Council's website; www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and comments made at www.birminghambeheard.org.uk

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Admission Arrangements and Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and the Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme must be formally agreed (determined) by this date.

Thursday 15 March 2018

Admission Arrangements including Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, as well as all own authority schools in Birmingham and the Local Authority Co-ordinated Scheme will be published on www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

6.1. The consultation has not identified any support for alternative admission arrangements to those proposed (for example not changing the current scheme).

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

7.1. To comply with the local authority's duties to determine primary and secondary admission numbers and admission arrangements and to have a single scheme for co-ordinating admissions to schools for 2019/20.

Signatures

Date

Cabinet Member for Children,
Families & Schools

Councillor Carl Rice

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Corporate Director for Children
& Young People

Colin Diamond

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012
- School Admissions Code issued by DfE - December 2014

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. Proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools September 2019-20.
2. (a) Community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary admission numbers for September 2019-20 intake; (b) Academies, foundation and voluntary aided and free schools admission numbers for September 2019-20 intake.
3. Proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to Schools – September 2019-20
4. Consultation Responses: Birmingham Local Authority's Proposed Admission Arrangements, Proposed Co-ordinated Scheme and Proposed Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2019/2020

Report Version: 5 Dated: 29 January 2018