

Public/ Report

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

Date: 12 February 2019



**Subject:** **ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND PUBLISHED  
ADMISSION NUMBERS FOR COMMUNITY AND  
VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS AND THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY CO-ORDINATED SCHEME  
2020/2021**

**Report of:** **Director for Education & Skills**

**Relevant Cabinet  
Member:** **Cllr Jayne Francis - Education, Skills & Culture  
Cllr Kate Booth - Children's Wellbeing**

**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** **Cllr Mariam Khan - Learning, Culture & Physical  
Activity  
Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq - Children's Social Care**

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 006042/2019		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential :		

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 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 2019 will apply to the academic year

2020/21). 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.

- 1.2 No 'substantial changes' are proposed to the co-ordinated scheme for 2020/2021, so no consultation process has taken place.
- 1.3 Changes to the published admission numbers of six schools are proposed hence the decision to consult on the Local Authority's admission arrangements, which include the published admission numbers for each of its schools.
- 1.4 The purpose of the report is to report the outcome of the consultation on the proposed 'Admission Arrangements', including published admission numbers, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the academic year 2020/2021, and to agree the 'Admission Arrangements' for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, including published admission numbers, as detailed in **Appendix 1A and 1B** respectively, and to agree the proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools (**Appendix 2**) for the academic year 2020/2021.

## **2 Recommendations**

2.1 That Cabinet approves the;-

- Admission Arrangements including published admission numbers, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the academic year 2020/2021, as set out in **Appendix 1A and 1B**.
- Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools for the academic year 2020/2021, as set out in **Appendix 2**.

## **3 Background**

3.1 Birmingham Local Authority has traditionally consulted annually on its admission arrangements including published admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and the Local Authority co-ordinated scheme.

3.1.1 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.

- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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.
- 3.1.4 All admission authorities, aside from those for 14-19 schools/UTCs who are able to opt out, 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.
- 3.1.5 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.
- 3.1.6 Community and Voluntary Controlled schools making changes to their PANs for 2020 are;
- Harborne Primary (Reception) +30 places
  - Park Hill Primary (Reception) - 30 places
  - Thornton Primary School (Year 3) - 30 places
  - Balaam Wood School (Year 7) + 23 places
  - Selly Park Girls School (Year 7) +20 places
  - Swanshurst Girls School (Year 7) +30 places

3.2 The timeline for consultation and determining admission arrangements;-

3.2.1 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Consultation on Proposed Admission Arrangements, including Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools was published on the Council's website; [www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and comments made at [www.birminghambeheard.org.uk](http://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk)

### 3.2.2. Wednesday 28 February 2019

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

### 3.2.3. Thursday 15 March 2019

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](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

## **4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal**

4.1 It is not a viable option for the Council to not determine the relevant school admission arrangements or a co-ordinated scheme. 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 2020/21, it is proposed that Cabinet approves the Admission Arrangements including published admission numbers, for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the academic year 2020/2021 (September 2020 entry), as set out in **Appendix 1A and 1B** and approves the Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to schools for the academic year 2020/2021, as set out in **Appendix 2**.

4.2 The admission arrangements are proposed having duly considered all related consultation feedback. The approval of those arrangements and the co-ordinated scheme will support the Corporate Plan and particularly outcome 2 'Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in' and the related priorities;

'We will improve protection of vulnerable children and young people'

'We will work with Early Years and schools to improve educational attainment and standards'

'We will inspire our children and young people to be ambitious and achieve their full potential'

## **5 Consultation**

5.1 Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended. To this end, consultation on proposed Admission Arrangements, (including admission numbers) for the September 2020 intake has taken place from 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 with the following:-

### 5.1.1 Internal

- An email was sent to all elected members inviting comments on the proposed Admission Arrangements. The related Cabinet report and

Admissions Arrangements were considered by senior council officers at the Corporate Management Team meeting on 14 January 2019.

- Senior council officers from Special Educational Needs and Assessment Review (SENAR), School Organisation, Early Years, Alternative Provision, SENDIASS, Access 2 Education and the Children's Trust.

#### 5.1.2 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.
- An email was sent to all Birmingham Nurseries.
- 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 BeHeard website. Consultation was based on the proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools (**Appendix 1A**), including the Proposed Admission Numbers set out in **Appendix 1B**.

5.2 Consultation outcome on Birmingham Local Authority's Proposed Admission Arrangements, including proposed published admissions numbers for community and voluntary controlled Schools 2020/2021;

5.2.1 15 responses were received in total. Respondents can respond to one or more areas of the consultation.

5.2.2 The responses have been separated into the relevant categories by numbers as stated below;

<u>Category</u>		<u>Feedback/ responses</u>
Proposed Admission Arrangements	-	0
Proposed Published Admissions Numbers	-	0
Other	-	12
Comments made	-	12
No comment made	-	3

5.3 The twelve responses received with comments all related to a separate admissions authority's proposed admissions arrangements for the 2020/2021 academic year. These comments all related to the six King Edwards VI Grammar Schools proposed admissions arrangements for the 2020/2021 academic year. This was a separate consultation process that Birmingham Local Authority facilitated on the behalf of a number of own admission authority schools within Birmingham. This consultation ran from 19 November 2018 and closed on 7 January 2019. As there were no comments made in relation to Birmingham Local Authority's Proposed Admissions Arrangements and Proposed Admissions Numbers no changes were subsequently made.

## **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 The Council is legally required to determine the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Birmingham co-ordinated scheme and to consult as appropriate
- 6.2 The approach outlined in this report ensures that the Council meets its related statutory requirements.
- 6.3 The Council is required to secure the provision of sufficient school places.
- 6.4 The proposed increases in the published admission numbers of the listed schools (see **Appendix 1B**) supports the Council in meeting its statutory requirements to secure the provision of sufficient school places.

## **7 Compliance Issues:**

### **7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**

- 7.1.1 The determining of the Admission Arrangements and the Local Authority co-ordinate scheme for 2020 / 21 will support the Council Plan 2018 – 2022 and particularly outcome 2 'Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in' and the related priorities;

‘We will improve protection of vulnerable children and young people’

‘We will work with Early Years and schools to improve educational attainment and standards’

‘We will inspire our children and young people to be ambitious and achieve their full potential’

## **7.2 Legal Implications**

7.2.1 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 2019 will apply to the academic year 2020/21). 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.

7.2.2 No ‘substantial changes’ are proposed to the co-ordinated scheme for 2020/2021, so a consultation process is not required and has not taken place.

## **7.3 Financial Implications**

7.3.1 The costs associated with these admission arrangements are funded from the School Admissions and Fair Access Service

budget, Directorate for Children & Young People. Where additional planned places are required (as referred to in **Appendix 1B**), the associated Full Business Cases for individual schools will be brought forward for approval and will detail the funding arrangements.

#### **7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)**

7.4.1 There are no direct procurement issues.

#### **7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

7.5.1 There are no direct human resources implications.

#### **7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

7.6.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to co-ordinate centrally the admission arrangements of all schools in its area. The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools aim to provide for equality of access by parents and their children. The authority's admission criteria do not disadvantage particular social groups or those with special educational needs. An initial Equality Impact Assessment was completed on 8 July 2014 (EA000124), and the need for a full assessment was not indicated. There is no anticipated adverse impact. The admissions arrangements and co-ordinated scheme are designed to ensure a fair and transparent system for school admissions and consider the particular needs of vulnerable groups including children with Education and Health Care Plans and Looked After and previously Looked After Children.

7.6.2 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 submitted.

### **8 Background Documents**

#### **8.1 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

- Proposed Admissions Arrangements and Published Admissions Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools consultation responses.

**8.2 List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):**

- 1A Proposed Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools September 2020-21.
- 1B Proposed Published Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools September 2020-21.
- 2 Proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to Schools - September 2020-21