

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	CABINET
Report of:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR PEOPLE
Date of Decision:	16 February 2016
SUBJECT:	SCHEME FOR CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS, ADMISSION NUMBERS AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2017/18
Key Decision: Yes	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: 000851/2016
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Brigid Jones, Children and Family Services
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Councillor Susan Barnett, Education and Vulnerable Children
Wards affected:	All

1. Purpose of report:
<p>1.1 To report the outcome of consultation on primary and secondary school admission numbers and the proposed scheme for co-ordinated admissions to schools and admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2017/2018.</p> <p>1.2 To agree the admission numbers detailed in Appendix 1(a) and agree the proposed scheme for co-ordinated admissions to schools and admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in Appendix 2 and 3 for the academic year 2017/2018.</p>

2. Decision(s) recommended:
<p>That Cabinet</p> <p>2.1 Approve the school admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools set out in Appendix 1(a) and note the admission numbers for academies and foundation and voluntary aided schools set out in Appendix 1(b).</p> <p>2.2 Approve the proposed scheme for co-ordinated admissions to schools and admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix 2 and 3.</p>

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Julie Newbold – Head of School Admissions and Pupil Placements
Telephone No:	303 2268
E-mail address:	julie.newbold@birmingham.gov.uk

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 admission criteria for the September 2017 intake has taken place 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).
- A public notice was placed in the Birmingham Mail informing the public that the proposed arrangements were available to view online and at the Council House Reception.
- 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 Be Heard website.

Consultation was based on the proposed admission numbers set out in Appendices 1a and 1b. The proposed scheme for coordinated admissions to schools (Appendix 2) and proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools (Appendix 3).

Seven comments were received during the consultation. These comments and responses are included in Appendix 4.

Comments were received in respect of five voluntary aided schools admission arrangements. The comments were passed to the relevant governing body which is the admission authority for the school.

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

There are no additional costs for these admission arrangements, all costs will be met from the School Admissions and Pupil Placements budget, Directorate for People.

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 2016 will apply to the academic year 2017/18). Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements by 31 January. 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 consult on and thereafter 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.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

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 be carried forward as part of the School Admissions & Pupil Placements Business Plan. The School Admissions and Pupil Placements Business Plan will monitor 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; managers to monitor staff accreditation of the language increment allowance to allow communication with parent/carers in their first language

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to determine admission arrangements and publish admission numbers on an annual basis for each community and voluntary controlled school. For voluntary aided and foundation schools, the admission arrangements are determined and an admission number published by each school's governing body following consultation between governing bodies of such schools and the local authority. Admission numbers are based upon the available accommodation in each school and Appendix 1 (a) and (b) sets out the number of places proposed for September 2017. Appendix 2 sets out the proposed scheme for coordinated admissions to schools for 2017 and Appendix 3 sets out the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2017.

5.2 Consultation has taken place between 23 November 2015 and 8 January 2016 (minimum 6 weeks), as detailed in paragraph 3 above.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

6.1 The consultation has not identified any support for alternative admission arrangements to those proposed.

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 2017/18.

Signatures

Date

Councillor Brigid Jones
Cabinet Member for Children
Services

.....

Peter Hay
Strategic Director for People

.....

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. (a) Community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary admission numbers for September 2017-18 intake.
(b) Academies, foundation and voluntary aided and free schools admission numbers for September 2017-18 intake.
2. Proposed Scheme for Co-ordinated Admissions to Schools – September 2017-18
3. Proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools September 2017-18.
4. Comments and responses from consultation.

Report Version	V4	Dated	02/02/2016
-----------------------	-----------	--------------	-------------------