

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 1 February 2018

Report of the Head of Service, School Improvement

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2019/20 – Determination of the Qualifying Scheme and Admissions Timetable (Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

This report concerns the determination of the statutory scheme and the mandatory timetable for co-ordinating admissions for Lancashire's primary and secondary schools and academies for 2019/2020.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

- i. Approve that the scheme listed at Appendix 'A' and its accompanying timetable in Appendix 'B' be adopted as the qualifying scheme for admissions to Lancashire primary and secondary schools and academies for 2019/20; and
- ii. Approve that the Director for Children's Services seek to secure the adoption of the scheme and timetable by the governing body of each Lancashire voluntary aided and foundation school and academy in order to inform the Secretary of State that a scheme has been introduced in Lancashire.

Background and Advice

Every local authority is under a duty to formulate a scheme to co-ordinate the admission process for every state funded school in their area.

Essentially, 'the scheme' and its accompanying timetable are used to ensure that all elements/stages of the admissions process are clearly published, to allow all admission authorities to meet key deadlines, which facilitates the Local Authority to offer school places on the mandatory date.

For secondary school places, this is 1 March, each year.

For primary school places, this is 16 April, each year.

These dates are set down in the School Admissions Code, published by the DfE. As the Local Education Authority, Lancashire County Council is legally responsible to provide the scheme/timetable.

A draft scheme and timetable for Lancashire schools and academies/free schools was circulated for consultation with schools and academies, governors, diocesan representatives and neighbouring authorities during Autumn Term 2017. These are attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

The proposed scheme proposed no changes from the existing scheme, other than small amendments to the non-statutory elements of the timetable to reflect dates of weekends etc.

The scheme for 2019/20 maintains the focus on on-line applications being the principle means of applying for school places.

Every voluntary aided and foundation school and academy governing body in Lancashire will be asked to adopt the scheme during spring term 2018. Any participating free schools will also be asked to adopt the scheme.

The Secretary of State for Education must be informed that a scheme is in place. If a scheme is not adopted by all admission authorities then a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State.

The requirements for such a 'qualifying scheme' for the co-ordination of admission arrangements for the academic year 2013/14 onwards are set out in The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012. New free schools may be exempt from this scheme during the first year of their establishment.

Consultations

Consultations have been held with the governing bodies of all schools and academies in Lancashire, representatives of the local Diocesan Education Authorities and neighbouring authorities.

No responses were received by the Local Authority to this consultation.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

Financial

The adoption of this scheme has no financial implications.

Legal

If a qualifying scheme is not adopted by the authority before 28 February 2018 a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A