

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

Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools and Sixth Forms for the School Year 2019/20

(Appendices 'A' & 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

To determine the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the school year 2019/20.

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

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve that the admission numbers and criteria for admission to community and voluntary controlled primary schools, secondary schools and sixth forms for 2019/20 listed at Appendices 'A' and 'B'
- (ii) Note and approve, where recommended, the issues raised by Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies as listed in the background papers.
- (iii) Approve that the admission numbers and criteria for admission set out at Appendices 'A' and 'B', together with the other information included on the Authority's website and in its admissions booklets, shall constitute the admission arrangements for 2019/20.

Background and Advice

The County Council is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. In accordance with Sections 88A-Q of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, as amended by the Education and Skills Act 2008 and regulations, the County Council is required to consult widely about the proposed admission arrangements for schools where it is the admissions authority.

LCC must comply with the School Admissions Code, published by the Department for Education [DfE], which has 'a force of law'. When any school is oversubscribed, ie, it has more applicants than places available, it needs a policy to allocate and offer places in an open and fair way, in line with the School Admissions Code.

During Autumn Term 2017, the County Council consulted with the governors of community and controlled schools on the proposed arrangements for admission to those schools for the 2019/20 school year. The governors were invited to comment on the proposed admissions policy and admission number for their school. Further parties, including other admission authorities within the relevant area for each community and controlled school, were also consulted about these proposals. A full list of those consulted is included within this report*.

The clarification of the procedures for shared parenting/shared care arrangements; moving house and relocation have been the focus of this consultation. The purpose of the changes is to make it clear to parents how and why places are allocated in a fair, clear and objective way.

The purpose of the admission arrangements is to ensure that all school places for maintained schools are allocated and offered in an open and fair way. Listed in Appendices A and B are the policy and associated procedures used by Lancashire County Council when allocating places for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. The supplementary notes and Geographical Priority Areas [GPA] which form part of the admission arrangements make it clear to parents how and why places are allocated in a fair, clear and objective way.

No objections were received to the proposals on admission arrangements/admission numbers.

The proposed admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled secondary schools, primary schools and sixth forms for the school year 2019/20 are listed at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

The consultation process is two-fold. In addition to consulting with other admission authorities in Lancashire, the Authority is also consulting with the Governing Bodies of Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Where changes have been proposed by C&VC schools the responses and officer comments are provided in the Background document, which summarises the recommendations of the Director of Children's Services.

Consultation on C& VC Admission Numbers:

There was 1 secondary response, which was agreed.

There were 4 primary responses; 2 were agreed; 2 were not.

Consultation on C& VC Admission Arrangements:

There were two responses, but neither led to changes to the published admission arrangements.

Consultations*

- Governors of community and voluntary controlled schools
- Governors of voluntary aided and foundation, free schools and academies
- Other Local Education Authorities adjoining Lancashire
- Diocesan and Church Authority colleagues
- Capital Development and Asset Management Team,
- School Place Planning Team
- Liaison and Compliance Team
- Legal Services
- Public

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

If the admission arrangements are not determined by 28 February 2018, the Authority would not be complying with its statutory obligations.

Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
DfE – Admissions Code of Practice – "School Admissions Code – December 2014"		Debbie Ormerod/ Nan Hogg, (01772) 531878/531540
School Standards and Framework Act 1998		Debbie Ormerod/ Nan Hogg, (01772) 531878/531540
Education and Inspections Act 2006		Debbie Ormerod/ Nan Hogg, (01772) 531878/531540
Education and Skills Act 2008		Debbie Ormerod/

The School Admissions
(Admission Arrangements)
(England) Regulations 2014

Nan Hogg,
(01772) 531878/531540

Debbie Ormerod/
Nan Hogg,
(01772) 531878/531540

The School Admissions
(Admission Arrangements and
Co-ordination of Admission
Arrangements) (England)
Regulations 2012

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Responses to the Consultation
on Admission Arrangements
2019/20 by Community and
Voluntary Controlled
Governing Bodies

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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A