

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 February 2024

Report of the Head of Service - Education Improvement

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;
Delivering better services;

Determination of Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary and Secondary Schools and Sixth Forms for the School Year 2025/2026

(Appendices 'A' to 'E' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

To determine the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and sixth forms schools for the school year 2025/2026.

This year, the consultation proposed the addition of two new admission criteria for the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, namely Children of Staff and Children of Armed Forces Personnel. The consultation feedback is included at Appendix 'C'.

Following consultation, the addition of the Children of Staff admission criteria is not proceeding at this time.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the admission numbers and admission arrangements for community



and voluntary controlled primary schools, secondary schools and sixth forms for 2025/2026 as listed at Appendices 'A', 'B', 'D' and 'E'.

- (ii) Consider the issues raised by Community and Voluntary Controlled Governing Bodies, the community and parents, and approve the recommendations set out in response, as set out at Appendix 'C'.
- (iii) Approve the admission numbers and criteria for admission, set out at Appendices 'A', 'B', 'D' and 'E', to constitute the Authority's admission arrangements for 2025/2026.

Detail

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.

During Autumn Term 2023, the county council consulted with the governors of community and voluntary controlled schools on the proposed arrangements for admission to those schools for the 2025/2026 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 voluntary controlled school, were also consulted about these proposals. A full list of those consulted is included within this report.

The proposed admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled secondary schools, primary schools and sixth forms for the school year 2025/2026 are set out at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

This year, the consultation included two new admissions criteria for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, namely Children of Staff and Children of Armed Forces Personnel. Feedback is set out at Appendix 'C'.

As the consultation responses included concerns regarding the Children of Staff possibly displacing pupils living close to a school it has been decided not to progress the inclusion of this admission criteria at this time. There was also a concern raised around Children of Staff being given priority, above siblings within the admission criteria.

The responses from governors, the community and comments from officers to the proposed admission arrangements and numbers for community and voluntary controlled secondary, sixth form and primary schools are set out at Appendix 'C'..

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
- Secular Society
- School Place Planning Team
- Legal and Democratic Services
- Public

Appendices

Appendices 'A' to 'E' are attached to this report. For clarification, they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Determined Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for 2025/2026
Appendix 'B'	Determined Admission Numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools & Year 12 places – 2025/2026
Appendix 'C'	Feedback received from Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2025 to 2026 Admissions Consultation
Appendix 'D'	Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for 2025/2026
Appendix 'E'	Determined Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools for 2025/2026

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The risk management implications have been considered and are set out under legal implications.

Legal

If the admission arrangements are not determined by 28 February 2024, the Authority would not be complying with its statutory obligations as set out in the report.

Financial

There are no financial implications.



List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

