

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 February 2022

Report of the Head of Service - Education Improvement

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Co-ordinated School Admissions Scheme 2023/2024 - Determination of the Qualifying Scheme

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief 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 2023/2024.

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

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked 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 2023/2024.
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of Education and Children's Services to secure the adoption of the scheme by the governing body of each Lancashire voluntary aided and foundation school and academy, in order to inform the Secretary of State for Education that a scheme has been introduced in Lancashire.

Detail

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. 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.

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 2021. These are attached at Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

The scheme for 2023/2024 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 2022. 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.

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. One response was received to this consultation from Star Academies which commented upon the clarity of the co-ordinated scheme. The necessary amendments were made to Appendix 'A'.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk Management

The risk implications of this proposal have been considered.

Financial

The adoption of this scheme has no financial implications.

Legal

If a qualifying scheme is not adopted by the authority before 28 February 2022, a scheme will be imposed by the Secretary of State for Education.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Ext
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A