

Subject:	School Admission Arrangements 2018-19		
Date of Meeting:	09 January 2017 Children Young People and Skills Committee		
Report of:	Pinaki Ghoshal, Executive Director of Children's Services		
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE/ NOT FOR PUBLICATION**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 All admission authorities must determine or formally agree admission arrangements every year even if they have not changed from previous years.
- 1.2 Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.
- 1.3 A full consultation exercise was undertaken for the 2017-18 admission year and the City Council is not proposing any alterations to its admission arrangements for the 2018-19 admission year.
- 1.4 Local Authorities must also set out schemes for co-ordinated admissions, including key dates in the admission process, and also the arrangements for consultation with own admission authority schools in the city and with other local authorities. They also establish the area (the "relevant area") within which the admission consultation should take place.
- 1.5 The City Council must have confirmed its admission arrangements for 2018-19 by 28 February 2017 in order to conform to the requirements of the School Admissions Code.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the Appendix 1 be adopted for the admissions year 2018-19.
- 2.2 That the admission priorities for Community Schools set out in Appendix 2 be adopted for all age groups.
- 2.3 That the co-ordinated schemes of admission and relevant area be approved.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The proposed admission arrangements and priorities for community primary and secondary schools are set out in detail in the attached Appendices 1 and 2. The Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy will retain the same admission priorities as Community Secondary Schools for the admissions year 2018-19, although they act as their own admission authorities. City Academy Whitehawk will likewise retain the same admission priorities as Community Primary Schools for the admissions year 2018-19.
- 3.2 The co-ordinated schemes of admission for primary and secondary schools (Appendices 3 and 4) set out the admission arrangements and relevant dates for each part of the school admission exercise and the arrangements for coordination between admission authorities. The overall purpose of co-ordination is to ensure that each pupil receives one offer of a school place, so that different admission authorities are not holding open places for pupils that will not be taken up. It also ensures that the admission process takes place in a timely fashion. The in-year arrangements (Appendix 5) are not subject to set time scales, so the same document can be used from year to year.
- 3.3 Periodically the Local Authority must determine what is known as the “relevant area for consultation”. This area will include the schools and other admission authorities (such as voluntary aided schools) that should be consulted on admission arrangements. In Brighton & Hove the relevant area has been set as the city boundary. Whilst there is some cross-border movement of pupils, it has not been seen as significant enough to warrant a cross-border relevant area. There are no proposals for any changes to a relevant area coterminous with the city boundary.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that the University of Brighton Academies Trust’s new free school will open in September 2018, subject to approval from the Department for Education. The free school will act as its own admission authority and it is anticipated that its admission arrangements will not include a defined catchment area.
- 3.5 Further to the information detailed in the CYPS committee report in September 2016 the City Council continues to work towards securing a permanent location for the new free school. The two sites previously identified remain under active consideration and the council continues to monitor the availability of any other site that would be suitable for the location of the school.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that the University of Brighton Academies Trust will be consulting upon its admission arrangements in early 2017. A free school becomes an admission authority once its funding agreement is signed and sealed. It will be required to immediately determine its admission arrangements at that point.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 As permitted under the School Admissions Code, the Local Authority is proposing to keep admission arrangements the same as the previous year and therefore no consultation exercise has been undertaken and no alternative options considered.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council scrutinised the Voluntary Aided (VA) Schools and Free Schools' proposed admission arrangements for 2018-19. VA schools are required to consult their religious authority (in this case the Diocesan Authority) before consulting others. The Council will review the final document published by the Governing Bodies before deciding whether it should comment or act further.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The School Admissions Code requires admission authorities to determine admission arrangements for 2017-18 by 28 February 2017.
- 6.2 As no changes to admission arrangements are proposed, no consultation process was conducted.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the recommendations relating to the school's admission numbers, admission priorities, co-ordinated scheme are agreed.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 It is not possible to quantify in detail the financial implications of these recommendations. However, any changes to admission arrangements or patterns may impact on the numbers of pupils at individual schools and therefore individual school budget allocations which are largely driven by pupil numbers.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 09/12/16

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education and Skills Act 2008 requires admission authorities to determine before the beginning of the school year, the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year. Admission authorities are not required to consult on their proposed admission arrangements where they have consulted on admission arrangements in any of the six preceding determination years, and the proposed arrangements are the same as those determined following the last such consultation (Regulation 15 of the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements)(England) Regulations 2012, as amended).

- 7.3 Regulation 17(2)(c) of the 2012 Regulations requires admission authorities to determine their admission arrangements on or before 28 February in the determination year.
- 7.4 Local authorities are required to publish on their website the proposed admission arrangements for any new school which is intended to open within the determination year and details of where the determined arrangements for all schools, including Academies, can be viewed. These details must be published by 15 March in the determination year.
- 7.5 Admission arrangements must conform to the School Admissions Code which sets out acceptable and unacceptable admission arrangements and priorities. Any person or body who considers admission arrangements for either maintained schools or an Academy to be unlawful or contrary to the provisions of the Admissions Code may make an objection to the Schools Adjudicator

Lawyer Consulted:

Serena Kynaston

Date: 13.12.2016

Equalities Implications:

- 7.6 Planning and consultation for school admissions procedures and school places and the operation of the admission process are conducted in such a way as to avoid potentially discriminatory admissions priorities or planning processes. The City Council and own admission authority schools' governing bodies must be mindful of bad practice with regard to equalities issues as described in the School Admissions Code.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.7 School admission arrangements are intended so far as it is possible to provide pupils with local places where they have asked for them. The planning of school places for the city takes into account the changing population pattern and resultant demand for places. The current pattern of parental preference is reflected in different schools operating both over and under capacity. In planning for school places the Council will have regard to sustainability priorities and seek to provide local places and places which are accessible by safe walking and where possible cycling routes and public transport wherever this is possible.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Published Admission Numbers for Primary and Secondary schools.
2. Admission arrangements and priorities for community primary and secondary schools
3. Coordinated scheme of admissions – primary.
4. Coordinated scheme of admissions – secondary.

5. Coordinated scheme of admissions – in year arrangements

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 Balanced school communities with firm parental support contribute to orderly and harmonious communities.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 1.2 Any change to school attendance patterns and pupil numbers will impact directly on resource allocation both revenue and capital, and on the Council's ability to meet parental expectations on school places. Pupil data and broader population data is used to identify the numbers of school places required and where they should be located. This feeds into the capital programme so that resources are allocated where they will have the most beneficial effect.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.3 None known.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.4 The allocation of school places affects all families in all parts of the city and can influence where people choose to live. Failure to obtain the desired choice of school can create a strong sense of grievance. The process of expressing a preference and if disappointed, entering an appeal can create intense anxiety for many families in the city. Admission arrangements together with school place planning are framed in such a way as to be mindful of supporting the needs of communities.

