

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 9 February 2021

**Decision No:** (CAB 20/21 30981)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Children and Learning
SUBJECT:	Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for Academic Year 2022-23
AUTHOR:	Zoe Snow

### THE DECISION

- (i) To approve the Admissions Policies, the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) and the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and the schemes for coordinating Infant-Primary, Junior and Secondary admissions for the school year 2022-23 as set out in appendices 1 to 7 of the report.
- (ii) To authorise the Executive Director - Wellbeing, Children and Learning to take any action necessary to give effect to the admissions policies and to make any changes necessary to the admissions policies where required to give effect to any Acts, Regulations or revised Schools Admissions or School Admissions Appeals Codes or binding Schools Adjudicator, Court or Ombudsman decisions whenever they arise.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. Southampton City Council (the admission authority) proposes changes to the 2022-23 admission policies for Infant-Primary, Junior and Secondary admissions. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements, the admission authority must first publicly consult on those arrangements. Consultation must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply. Admission Authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually.
2. The proposed policies are at Appendix 1, 2 and 3 of the report. There are changes from the 2021-22 arrangements.

### DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. An alternative option considered was to not consult on or determine local admission arrangements. This has been rejected because it would be

unlawful.

2. An alternative option considered was to not make any changes to the PANs. This has been rejected because the city is forecasting surplus places from 2022. Maintaining empty classrooms is costly; especially infant classes as they must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. The risk of not changing PANs could mean that schools do not have an intake that financially justifies the operation of additional classes, but must do so due to the infant class size regulations (e.g. a school with a PAN of 90 may only take in 62 pupils but will still have to run 3 classes rather than 2, at a significant financial loss). Given the pupil forecasting, this would not be financially sustainable.

#### **OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

None.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Decision Maker:  
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:  
Judy Cordell

#### **SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in (*if applicable*) (*this suspends implementation*)

Call-in Procedure completed <i>(if applicable)</i>
Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>