

DECISION-MAKER:	Cabinet
SUBJECT:	Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for School Year 2017/18
DATE OF DECISION:	16 February 2016
REPORT OF:	Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Social Care

CONTACT DETAILS

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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Council is required by statute and regulations to approve its admissions policies for the school year starting September 2017 (including Published Admissions Numbers – PANs) by 28 February 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	To approve the Admissions Policies and the Published Admissions Numbers (PANs) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and the schemes for coordinating Primary and Secondary admissions for the school year 2017/18 as set out in appendices 1 to 5.
	(ii)	To authorise the Service Director, Children and Families Services 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 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The Local Authority has a statutory duty to determine the admission criteria annually and to ensure that all rising 5s have an allocated education place
2.	The proposed policy is at Appendix 1. There are no changes from the 2016/17 arrangements
3.	Implementation of the policy is dependent on the following schemes:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions Policy for Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary and Sixth Form pupils to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, see appendix 1 • Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, see appendix 2 • The coordinated scheme for entry to Infant/Primary Schools see appendix 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordinated scheme for entry to Junior Schools see appendix 4 • The coordinated scheme for entry to secondary schools see appendix 5
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
4.	The only alternative option considered was to not determine local admission arrangements. This has been rejected because it would result in the imposition of admission arrangements upon local schools by the Secretary of State for Education
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
5.	It is a statutory requirement that School Admission Authorities determine the Admission Policy each year to approve the allocation of School places to Southampton pupils and to pupils applying for a place in a Southampton School from outside the City. The City Council is the Admission Authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in the City and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these Schools. Regulations require all Admission Authorities i.e. the Local Authority, governing bodies of Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools and Academy Trusts to determine their admission arrangements for the school year 2017-18 by 28 February 2016 and to notify the fact to other Admission Authorities within 14 days of this date.
6.	<p>The principles of Southampton's Admission Policies are well established. They seek to fulfil the requirement to be "fair, clear and objective" (School Admissions Code 2014). The proposed policies seek to make this process as transparent as possible. In particular they enable the Local Authority, Schools, and parents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the rights of vulnerable children. To meet significant medical or psychological needs of individual children. To develop, strengthen and support immediate family ties. To develop and strengthen links between designated feeder and receiver schools, and <p>To have access to reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair criteria that avoid ambiguity in the interpretation of the policy</p>
7.	An Admission Authority must consult on any changes it proposes to make to its admission arrangements. However if no alteration is proposed then there is no need to consult but the Admission Authority must still determine its arrangements in line with the timetable set out in the Regulations. The minor amendment in the 2016/17 arrangements did not require consultation as it is required to make the Council's arrangements comply with the School Admissions Code.
8.	It is a statutory requirement that School Admission Authorities determine their admission arrangements each year to approve the allocation of places to Southampton pupils and to pupils applying for places in Southampton Schools from outside the City even if no changes have been made from the previous year's arrangements.
9.	Apart from required changes of dates there are no changes to the coordinated schemes for Infant, Junior or Secondary transfers

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
10.	There are no additional revenue costs to the General Fund arising directly from the approval of the admission policies for the school year 2017/18
<u>Property/Other</u>	
11.	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
12.	Admission Authorities are legally required to determine their admission arrangements (including PANs, under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Coordination of Admission Arrangements) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014.
13.	In accordance with the above, the deadline for determining admission arrangements is 28 February 2016. Following determination on 16 February 2016, the Local Authority has 14 days to notify all Schools in writing of its decision. School's governing bodies then have 6 weeks to object to their respective PANs (but no other aspect of the admission policy)
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
14.	The Education Acts, Regulations made pursuant to them and the School Admissions Code (December 2014) require Local Authorities to formulate coordinated schemes for dealing with applications to Infant, Primary, Junior and Secondary Schools at the relevant age of transfer. Such schemes also include admission to Schools where the Local Authority is not the Admission Authority i.e. Voluntary Aided, Foundation, Free Schools and Academies. The schemes must ensure that every parent is notified of one and only one offer of a school place on the same day. A National Offer date of 1 March, or first working day thereafter, has been set for Secondary admissions and a National Offer date of 16 April, or first working day thereafter, for Primary sector admissions. The regulations also set National closing dates for applications of 31 October in the offer year for Secondary applications and 15 January in the offer year for Primary applications.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
15.	The recommended admission arrangements proposed in the report are consistent with the Children and Young People's Plan

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Admission Policy for Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary pupils to community and voluntary controlled schools 2017/18
2.	Proposed Published Admissions Numbers for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
3.	Coordinated scheme for year R entry to Infant/Primary Schools 2017/18
4.	Coordinated scheme for year 3 entry to Junior Schools 2017/18
5.	Coordinated scheme for year 7 entry to Secondary Schools 2017/18

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None.
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
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Privacy Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at: Civic Centre, Southampton.

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. School Admissions Code	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf