

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21</b>		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>15 JANUARY 2019</b>		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR ASPIRATION, SCHOOLS AND LIFELONG LEARNING</b>		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
<p>All schools have admission criteria to decide which children get places. These criteria are set by the admission authority for each school. Southampton City Council is the admission authority for every Community and Voluntary Controlled School in the city.</p> <p>For 2020 admissions, the Council are proposing minor changes to the Infant/Primary, Junior and Secondary policies. As such, a statutory public consultation must take place for a minimum of 6 weeks. The consultation period on proposed policies ran from 1 November 2018 to 13 December 2018 and during that period were shared with all local admission authorities, all schools, other LA's and were available to view on the Council website for public comment. No comments were received during the consultation period.</p> <p>The 2020-21 Admissions policy proposes changes to that of the 2019-20 policy. Those changes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An amendment to the medical criterion which is now not dependent on children residing in or out of catchment, as it was in previous policies. This will benefit any child who meets the medical criteria.</li> <li>b) The reduction of PAN (Published Admission Number) for St Mark's CofE Primary School from 90 to 60. This reduction in PAN was agreed by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.</li> <li>c) The addition of listed PANs for each Community or Voluntary Controlled school.</li> <li>d) The addition of information on the 'admission of children outside normal age group' to Junior and Secondary policies. This will provide further information to parents on this matter.</li> </ol>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>

	(i)	To approve the Admissions Policies and the Published Admissions Numbers (PANs) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and the schemes for coordinating Infant-Primary, Junior and Secondary admissions for the school year 2020-21 as set out in appendices 1 to 7.
	(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.	Southampton City Council (the admission authority) proposes changes to the 2020-21 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 Council is required by statute and regulations to approve its admissions policies for the school year starting September 2020 (including Published Admissions Numbers – PANs). The deadline for this is 28 February 2020. This is a requirement of 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.
3.	The proposed policies are at Appendix 1-4. There are changes from the 2018-19 arrangements.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

4.	The only alternative option considered was to not consult on or determine local admission arrangements. This has been rejected because it would be unlawful.
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### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

5.	The Council has consulted on the admission arrangements for 6 weeks prior to the deadline set in the School Admissions Code (31 January 2019). It is a statutory requirement that School Admission Authorities then 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 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. Once all arrangements have been determined, arrangements can be
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	objected to and referred to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To protect the rights of vulnerable children.</li> <li>b) To meet significant medical or psychological needs of individual children.</li> <li>c) To develop, strengthen and support immediate family ties.</li> <li>d) To develop and strengthen links between designated feeder and receiver schools.</li> <li>e) To have access to reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair criteria that avoid ambiguity in the interpretation of the policy.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>The 2020-21 Admissions policy proposes changes to that of the 2019-20 policy. Those changes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An amendment to the medical criterion which is now not dependent on children residing in or out of catchment, as it was in previous policies. This will benefit any child who meets the medical criteria.</li> <li>b) The reduction of PAN for St Mark’s CofE Primary School from 90 to 60. This reduction in PAN was agreed by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.</li> <li>c) The addition of listed PANs for each Community or Voluntary Controlled school.</li> <li>d) The addition of information on the ‘admission of children outside normal age group’ to Junior and Secondary policies. This will provide further information to parents on this matter.</li> </ul>
8.	Apart from required changes of dates there are no changes to the coordinated schemes for Infant-Primary, Junior or Secondary transfers.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
9.	There are no additional revenue costs arising directly from the approval of the admission policies for the school year 2020-21.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
10.	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
11.	Admission Authorities are legally required to consult upon (if changes to policy are proposed) and 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.

12.	In accordance with the above, the deadline for the 6 week consultation is 31 January 2019. Once all arrangements have been determined, arrangements can be objected to and referred to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
13.	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 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 sector applications.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
14.	The recommendation to carry out formal consultation and determination of policy presents no financial risk. The proposals anticipate no changes to the current financial envelope.
15.	The recommendation presents no risks to the current service delivery. Any risks to service delivery will be presented with the final proposals after consultation has taken place.
16.	The proposals may cause low to moderate level stakeholder concern. The recommendation to carry out formal consultation provides the opportunity for these concerns to be raised and considered. Concerns and views will inform any proposals that will be presented to Cabinet.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
17.	The recommended admission arrangements proposed in the report are consistent with the Education Strategy and Council policy.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	Yes
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant/Primary Schools for 2020/21
2.	Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Junior Schools for 2020/21
3.	Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Secondary Schools for 2020/21
4.	Admission Policy for Bitterne Park School 2020/21

5.	The co-ordinated scheme for Year R entry to Infant / Primary Schools for 2020-21
6.	The co-ordinated scheme for entry to Junior Schools for 2020-21
7.	The co-ordinated scheme for entry to Secondary Schools for 2020-21
8.	Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

#### Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	Yes
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?</b>	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	School Admissions Code 2014  <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389388/School_Admissions_Code_2014_-_19_Dec.pdf</a>