

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022		
DATE OF DECISION:	11 FEBRUARY 2020		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR ASPIRATION, CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Clodagh Freeston	Tel: 023 8083 3681
	E-mail:	clodagh.freeston@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Hilary Brooks	Tel: 023 8083 4899
	E-mail:	hilary.brooks@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<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 2021 admissions, the Council are proposing changes to the admission number to three schools in the Infant/Primary policy. As such, a statutory public consultation must take place for a minimum of 6 weeks. The proposed policies have been shared with all local admission authorities, all schools, other LA's and is available to view on the Council website.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	To approve the Admissions Policies and the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools and the schemes for coordinating Infant-Primary and Junior admissions for the school year 2021-22 as set out in appendices 1 to 5.	
	(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 REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	Southampton City Council (the admission authority) proposes changes to the 2021-22 admission policies for Infant-Primary and Junior 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 and 2. There are changes from the 2020-21 arrangements.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
3.	<p>An alternative option considered was to not consult on or determine local admission arrangements. This has been rejected because it would be unlawful.</p> <p>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 2021. Maintaining empty classrooms is costly; especially infant classes as they must not contain more than 30 pupils with a single qualified teacher. If schools have several vacancies, they would be required to employ an additional teacher. Given the pupil forecasting, this would not be financially sustainable.</p>
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4.	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 pupils applying for a place in a Southampton School. The Council is responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. Once all arrangements have been determined, arrangements can be objected to and referred to the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May in the determination year.
5.	<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"> a) To protect the rights of vulnerable children. b) To meet significant medical or psychological needs of individual children. c) To develop, strengthen and support immediate family ties. d) To develop and strengthen links between designated feeder and receiver schools. <p>To have access to reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair criteria that avoid ambiguity in the interpretation of the policy.</p>
6.	<p>The 2021-2022 Admissions policy proposes changes to that of the 2020-21 policy. Those changes are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The reduction of PAN for Fairisle Infant School from 120 to 90. b) The reduction of PAN for Mason Moor Primary School from 45 to 30. c) The reduction of PAN for Valentine Primary School from 120 to 90. <p>The primary sector is forecasting surplus places in Year R from 2021 which increases up to 2024, hence the reduction of PAN in some schools. These schools were selected because they are spread across the planning areas of the city. This gives a more even reduction and links directly with where future</p>

	pupils are living. In addition to that, these schools are seeking assistance to manage their budgets and a reduction in classes equates to a reduction in staffing.
7.	Apart from required changes of dates there are no changes to the coordinated schemes for Infant-Primary, Junior or Secondary transfers.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
8.	There are no additional revenue costs arising directly from the approval of the admission policies for the school year 2021-2022.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
9.	None,
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
10.	Admission Authorities are legally required to consult upon (if changes to policy are proposed) and determine their admission arrangements by 28 th February (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.
11.	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.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
12.	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.
13.	Admission Arrangements must be fully compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equalities Act 2010. The Council's proposed Admission Arrangements meet the legislative requirements.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
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.
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 inform any proposals that are presented to Cabinet.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
17.	The recommended admission arrangements proposed in the report are consistent with the Education Strategy and Council policy.
KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Admission Policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled Infant/Primary Schools for 2021-2022
2.	Admission Policy for Fairisle Junior School for 2021-2022
3.	The co-ordinated scheme for Year R entry to Infant / Primary Schools for 2021-2022.
4.	The co-ordinated scheme for entry to Junior Schools for 2021-2022.
5.	The co-ordinated scheme for entry to Secondary Schools for 2021-2022.
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
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 2014 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/a

		ttachment_data/file/389388/School Admissions Code 2014 - 19 Dec.pdf
--	--	---