

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24
DATE OF DECISION:	7 FEBRUARY 2022
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director Wellbeing (Children & Learning)	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY		
None		
BRIEF SUMMARY		
All schools must have an admissions policy which lays out criteria for how they will decide which children secure places if more children apply than the school has spaces available for. Southampton City Council is the admissions authority for the Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the city.		
For 2023 admissions, the Council are proposing no changes from the 2022 arrangements and so no public consultation has been held, this process having been completed in the determination of the 2022 policies.		
RECOMMENDATIONS:		
Having complied with paragraph 15 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.		
	(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 2023-24 as set out in appendices 1 to 7.
	(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.	This report is presented as a general exception item in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution. Amendments to the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to information) (England) Regulations 2012 require 28 days' notice to be given prior to determining all Key Decisions. This notice was not given in this case due to the nature of the decision needing to be taken not being determined. This was due to a delay in school forecasting information that meant it was not clear if any changes to the admission arrangements and policies were needed, that would have triggered the need for a consultation period.
2.	As a requirement of the Admissions Code 2021, all admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements by 28 th February of the determination year. For 2023 entry, the determination year is 2022. This is further reason why this report is being presented as a Regulation 15 exception, as the determination must occur by this date and cannot be held until a later Future Plan.
3.	The proposed policies are at Appendix 1, 2 and 3. There are no changes from the 2022-23 arrangements.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
4.	An alternative option considered was to not consult on or determine local admission arrangements. This has been rejected because it would be unlawful.
5.	An alternative option considered was to consult upon and recommend changes to the PANs of some schools. This has been rejected due to the lack of evidence presented from pupil forecasting at the present time.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
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 2021). 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"> 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>
7.	Apart from required changes of dates and wording changes for clarity, there are no material changes to the coordinated schemes for Infant-Primary, Junior or Secondary transfers, nor to the Supplementary Information Form (SIF).
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 2023-24.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
9.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
10.	The Education Acts, Regulations made pursuant to them and the School Admissions Code (2021) 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.
11.	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.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
12.	None.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
13.	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.
14.	The recommendation presents no risks to the current service delivery. Any risks to service delivery.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
15.	None.

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	SCC Inf-Primary Admissions Policy 2023-24
2.	SCC Junior Admissions Policy 2023-24
3.	SCC Secondary Admissions Policy 2023-24

4.	SCC Supplementary Information Form
5.	SCC Infant-Primary Coordinated Scheme
6.	SCC Junior Coordinated Scheme
7.	SCC Secondary Coordinated Scheme

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	
2.	

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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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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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.	
2.	