

Determined Admissions Arrangements for the 2024/25 Academic Year

To: Children and Young People Committee

Meeting Date: 16 January 2024

From: Executive Director: Children, Education and Families

Electoral division(s): Duxford
Linton
Sawston and Shelford
St Neots Priory Park and Little Paxton

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Outcome: To approve the co-ordinated scheme for admission to a school and changes to the admissions arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools which would affect the admission of children in the 2025/26 academic year.

By agreeing to approve the admission arrangements for 2025/26, the Committee will be ensuring that the Council is meeting its legal obligations.

Recommendation: The Committee determines the co-ordinated qualifying scheme and admission arrangements for all schools for whom the Council, as the Local Authority, is the admission authority as published in the consultation documents for admission to school in 2025/26.

Voting arrangements: Co-opted committee members are eligible to vote.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Authority (LA) is responsible each academic year for formulating each, a qualifying scheme in relation to the transition of children to each primary and secondary school in Cambridgeshire. The LA must consult in respect of the proposed scheme, where it is substantially different from the qualifying scheme adopted in the preceding academic year, or where the LA has not consulted on a qualifying scheme in the previous seven years.

In addition, the LA, as the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Cambridgeshire, must determine the admission arrangements for these schools every year. Consultation of those arrangements is required when the following changes are proposed:

- A decrease in the Published Admission Number (PAN); and/or
- A change to the catchment area; and/or
- A change to over-subscription criteria

There is no requirement on admission authorities to consult on any proposed increase to a school's PAN.

The statutory Admissions Code (2021) requires that the consultation period must be for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year.

- 1.2 All admission authorities must consult with:

- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen.
- b) other persons in the relevant area who, in the opinion of the admission authority, have an interest in the proposed admissions.
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools).
- d) whichever of the governing body or the local authority is not the admission authority for the school; any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the LA; and
- e) in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.

- 1.3 Following the consultation period for admission to school in 2025/26, all admission authorities need to have determined their admission arrangements by 29 February 2024 and then notified all consultees of this within 14 days of that date. Once determined all admission authorities are required to publish a copy of the determined arrangements on their website as soon as possible, and no later than, 15 March in the determination year. All other admission authorities must send a copy of their full, determined arrangements to the LA by this date.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The consultation documents including the proposed co-ordinated qualifying scheme and admission arrangements for schools for whom the LA is the admission authority for 2025/26

were published on 1 November 2023. The six-week consultation period concluded on 15 December 2023. Prior to this date all foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools in Cambridgeshire had been contacted to remind them of the need to follow the consultation and determination process as set out in the Code.

The LA's consultation was in respect of proposed admission processes:

A decrease in the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the following schools:

Duxford Primary School – a reduction of 35 to 30 supported by intake trends school reducing classes from 6 to 5 in line with a roll of 154.

Linton Infants School - a reductions of PAN from 60 to 50

Harston and Newton Community Primary School - a reduction in PAN from 25 to 15

Summer born Reception: the process has been reviewed separately to bring practice into line with the school admissions code and DfE guidance.

Catchment changes:

There were no catchment changes to Own Admission Authority schools where the LA is the admissions authority.

There were no objections received regarding the changes above during the consultation period.

Note – the following schools are still under consultation at the time of report submission with outcome not available until the 31 January 24 therefore the information is information only.

Priory Park Infant School – from a pan of 90 to 60

Priory Junior School - from a pan of 90 to 60

Both schools have agreed that any pupils transferring from Priory Park Infant School to Priory Junior School (Year 2 to Year 3) in September 2025, 2026, and 2027 will be admitted to the Junior school, even if this year group is oversubscribed.

- 2.2 The LA does not publish details of proposed admission arrangements for own admission authority schools (where the LA is not the admissions authority). However own admissions authorities must notify the LA of their intention to increase the school PAN and reference of the change needs to be made on the school's own website.

3. Alignment with ambitions

- 3.1 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, and our communities and natural environment are supported to adapt and thrive as the climate changes
There are no significant implications for this ambition.

- 3.2 Travel across the county is safer and more environmentally sustainable
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
- By supporting admissions into schools the Council is avoiding additional travel for some pupils.
- 3.3 Health inequalities are reduced
There are no significant implications for this ambition.
- 3.4 People enjoy healthy, safe, and independent lives through timely support that is most suited to their needs
There are no significant implications for this ambition.
- 3.5 Helping people out of poverty and income inequality
There are no significant implications for this ambition.
- 3.6 Places and communities prosper because they have a resilient and inclusive economy, access to good quality public services and social justice is prioritised
The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:
There are no significant implications for this ambition.
- 3.7 Children and young people have opportunities to thrive
Providing a legally compliant determined admissions arrangement enables all children and young people to access school which in turn significantly impacts on this outcome.

4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications.
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications
As outlined about the admissions arrangement consultation has been undertaken in line with the council's statutory duty
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement
The relevant Local Members involved with any change detailed are consulted on.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.8 Climate Change and Environment Implications on Priority Areas

There are no significant implications within this category.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement and Commercial? Yes

Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or Pathfinder Legal? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Shejal Patel, Pathfinder Legal

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your EqIA Super User?

Yes

Name of Officer: Josette Kennington

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Simon Cobby

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jonathan Lewis

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Raj Lakshman

If a Key decision, have any Climate Change and Environment implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

Not a key decision.

5. Source documents

5.1 None