

Agreed. *[Signature]*

Decision Record – School Admission Arrangements - 2016/17 (Including Admission to Nursery Schools)

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision	Cllr Colin Hayfield Education and Learning
Date of Decision	21/11/2014

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning approves consultation on the proposed arrangements for School and Nursery School Admissions in 2016/17.

Reasons for Decisions

Local Authorities are required to consult annually on school admission arrangements. In accordance with the School Admissions Code, consultation must take place for a minimum of eight weeks between 01 November and 01 March. Admission arrangements must then be determined (finalised) by 15 April.

This decision was required to give permission to undertake the consultation.

Background Information

The proposed admission arrangements for schools are very similar to those approved for operation in 2015/16. The proposed admission arrangements apply to both admissions at the usual time (i.e. first admission; transfer to junior school and transfer to secondary school) and to admissions during the school year.

Two minor changes are proposed to the operational aspects of the scheme. The first change is that parents applying for a secondary school place will be able to list six schools (preferences) on their application, instead of the seven currently allowed. This will align the process with primary and in-year applications which already allow only six preferences. Only eleven parents listed seven preferences for 2014 entry.

The second change is that waiting lists will continue to be cleared at the end of each academic term. However, rather than writing to parents and asking if they would like their child to remain on a school's waiting list, the onus will be on parents to contact the Admissions Service. This will be made clear to parents as soon as their child is added to a school's waiting list.

Warwickshire's current (and proposed) admission arrangements are designed to ensure that local children have every opportunity to attend their local school. The system of priority areas is well-established in Warwickshire and similar arrangements operate in numerous other Local Authorities. The current arrangements also play a vital role in ensuring the Local Authority meets its duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available and that they are located where demand exists.

A consultation exercise will begin on 3 December 2014. It will end on 30 January 2015. Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet will be asked to consider the proposed admission arrangements and any comments received at their meeting due

to be held on 12 March 2015. The admission arrangements will then be determined and published on the Council's website.

Financial Implications

None

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Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Colin Hayfield

Checklist

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or Exempt? (State the category of exempt information)	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of Reports considered

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3065/Committee/555/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers
None

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Colin Hayfield
All Strategic Directors
Legal – Victoria Gould, Fay Ford, Barry Jukes, Peter Endall, Jane Pollard
Finance – Simon Smith, Chris Norton
Equality – Minakshee Patel
Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Children & Young People OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Bob Hicks, Julie Jackson, Chris Williams and John Whitehouse