

Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Wednesday 29 November 2023
Time: 12.00 pm

Membership

Councillor Kam Kaur

Items on the agenda: -

- 1. Permission to Consult - Admission Arrangements 2025-2026** 3 - 6

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

Disclaimers

Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election or appointment to the Council. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting.

Non-pecuniary interests relevant to the agenda should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web
<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Portfolio Holder Decision Permission to Consult - Admission Arrangements 2025-2026

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education
Date of decision	29 November 2023
	Signed

1. Decision taken

- 1.1 The Portfolio Holder approves the commencement of a 6-week consultation on Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme and In Year process for school admissions for the 2025/2026 Academic year

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Under the school Admission Code 2021 when changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements that will apply for admission applications the following school year.
- 2.2 Minor changes are proposed for the 2025/2026 Admission Arrangements concerning decreasing the published admission number (PAN) at a small number of Warwickshire maintained schools to bring the PAN in line with the class organisation of those individual schools.
- 2.3 Minor changes are proposed to update dates to reflect the 2025/26 academic year.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The changes proposed reflect the current class organisation at three Schools to support long term financial planning, details are given below.
- 3.2 Kingsbury Primary School - Proposal to change PAN from 45 to 30**
- 3.3 It is proposed to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 45 to 30, subject to consultation.
- 3.4 There have been low intakes at Kingsbury Primary School over the past few years due to parental preference in an area where surplus places are usually available in

alternative schools within the planning area. All but 1 year group (year 5) have less than 45 children on roll.

- 3.5 Due to the fall in numbers and difficulties with mixed age classes, the school has organised into pure year groups in key stage 2 from this academic year but is still having to mix in key stage 1 due to infant class size limits of 30 children per one qualified teacher.
- 3.6 If agreed, a reduction to the number of places available on entry to 30 will support this organisation to continue long-term reducing the overall number of classes and teachers that will be required.
- 3.7 The proposal would assist the school to plan for long-term stability, a consistent structure, and a sustainable financial position. Governors are concerned that operating with low pupil numbers will be financially unsustainable, reducing the PAN to 30 allows for better financial stability.
- 3.8 The School and governing body requested the change for the reasons set out above and the local authority's forecast supports the PAN reduction for 2025 entry. However, as there is no proposed reduction in the physical capacity of the school buildings the option remains for the school to increase the PAN in the future should pupil numbers increase in the local area.
- 3.9 Newburgh Primary School - Proposal to change PAN from 60 to 30**
- 3.10 It is proposed to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 60 to 30, subject to consultation.
- 3.11 There have been fluctuating intake numbers at Newburgh Primary School over the past few years due to parental preference where surplus places are usually available in alternative schools within the planning area.
- 3.12 The proposed change seeks to assist the school to plan for long-term stability, a consistent structure, and a sustainable financial position.
- 3.13 If agreed, a reduction of the PAN to 30 will support the school's organisation long term, reducing the overall number of classes and teachers that will be required, thus allowing for better financial stability.
- 3.14 The School and governing body requested the change for the reasons set out above and the local authority's forecast supports the PAN reduction for 2025 entry. However, as there is no proposed reduction in the physical capacity of the school buildings the option remains for the school to increase the PAN in the future should pupil numbers increase in the local area.
- 3.15 The Dasset CofE Primary School – Proposal to change PAN from 30 to 15**
- 3.16 It is proposed to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 15, subject to consultation.

- 3.17 The Dasset CofE Primary School is a small rural school that has seen a decline in the number of applications for a number of years. Of the 7 year groups only year 1 and year 6 have more than 15 children (19 in year 1 and 17 in year 6). The school has organised mixed age teaching in an effort to make savings and has reduced from 7 class bases down to 4.
- 3.11 The proposed change seeks to assist the school to plan for long-term stability, a consistent structure, and a sustainable financial position.
- 3.12 If agreed, reduction of the PAN to 15 will support the school's organisation to continue long term, reducing the overall number of classes and teachers that will be required, allowing for better financial stability.
- 3.13 The School and governing body requested the change for the reasons set out above and the local authority's forecast supports the PAN reduction for 2025 entry. However, as there is no proposed reduction in the physical capacity of the school buildings the option remains for the school to increase the PAN in the future should pupil numbers increase in the local area.

Financial implications

4.1 None

Environmental implications

5.1 None

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Executive Director	Executive Director for People - Nigel Minns nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Education – Kam Kaur

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

n/a

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Guy Darvill

Finance – Virginia Rennie

Equality – 30/10/2023

Democratic Services – Helen Barnsley

Councillors – N/A

Local Member(s): Councillors John Holland, Andy Jenns and Chris Kettle