

Portfolio Holder Decision – Consultation on 2023/24 admissions arrangements and coordinated scheme

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education
Date of decision	12 November 2021
	Signed

1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education approves conducting the required statutory consultation to establish the Warwickshire Admission Arrangements, Co-ordinated Scheme and In-Year application process for the 2023/2024 Academic year.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 WCC is the admissions authority for all Community Schools and Voluntary controlled schools in Warwickshire.
- 2.2 Minor changes are proposed for the 2023/ 2024 Admission Arrangements for any schools where the Local Authority is the admission authority.
- 2.3 Changes include the reduction in the published admission number at 2 schools to better reflect the pupil intakes, amendments to the oversubscription criteria in line with the new DfE School Admission Code 2021 and revision and clarification of information outlined in all documents.
- 2.4 In accordance with the DfE's School Admissions 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.
- 2.5 The results of the consultation will be used to finalise the WCC Admissions Arrangements 2023 for submission for determination by Cabinet on 17 February 2022.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Subject to Portfolio Holder approval, statutory consultation on the WCC Admissions Arrangements 2023 will be conducted over an eight week period starting 22nd November 2021.
- 3.2 The format of such statutory consultations are prescribed in the DfE's School Admissions Code 2021 and include consulting with:
- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;
 - other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
 - all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
 - whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority;
 - any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority; and
 - in the case of schools designated with a religious character, the body or person representing the religion or religious denomination.
- 3.3 Discussion has already taken place with the school leadership of the two schools affected by proposed reduction in PAN who are supportive of the proposals.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There may be a small revenue financial cost incurred by running a consultation, circa £500, if public notices are required to be published in local newspapers in each of the Districts and Boroughs. This will be met from existing service budgets.
- 4.2 Failure to consult on changes to these arrangements would be a breach of the DfE's School Admissions Code and may result in legal fees if challenged in the future.

5. Environmental implications

None

Report Author	Sufficiency Coordinator, Rosalind Currie Education Capital, Sufficiency, and Admissions Lead Commissioner, Bern Timings
Assistant Director	AD Education Services, Ian Budd
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities, Mark Ryder
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Children, Families & Education, Cllr Morgan

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

List of background papers
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Warwickshire County Council Admission Arrangements 2023/24 for community or voluntary controlled schools 2. Draft Warwickshire County Council Coordinated scheme 2023/24 3. Draft Warwickshire County Council In-Year application process 2023/24

Members and officers consulted and informed
<p>Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jeff Morgan</p> <p>Corporate Board – Mark Ryder</p> <p>Legal – Guy Darvill</p> <p>Finance –</p> <p>Equality –</p> <p>Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse</p> <p>Councillors – Dahmash, Roodhouse and Brown</p> <p>Local Member(s): n/a</p>