



Committee and Date

Cabinet
12 March 2014

12.30 pm

Item

9

Public

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16

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1. Summary

Following introduction of the revised School Admissions Code in February 2012, the requirement to consult on admission arrangements was relaxed to every 7 years where no changes were proposed. Shropshire Council carried out consultation on its revised admission arrangements for 2014/15 last year and these were determined by Cabinet on 13 March 2013.

There are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements in 2015/16 for community and voluntary controlled schools in Shropshire and so consultation was not required this year, including by the Local Admissions Forum. According to the School Admissions Code 2012, all admission authorities must determine admission arrangements by 15 April every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required. Cabinet is therefore requested, as admission authority for Shropshire community and voluntary controlled schools, to determine the admission arrangements for the 2015/16 academic year

2. Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements as determined in March 2013 without amendment;
2. That Cabinet, by agreeing to the above, determine the school admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2015/16 in accordance with the School Admissions Code;
3. That officers notify the Secretary of State by 15 April 2014 that Shropshire Council has determined its school admissions arrangements for the 2015/16 academic year.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

If determination of admission arrangements does not take place, Shropshire Council, would not be compliant with the appropriate legislation as an admission authority.

4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for Shropshire Council connected with the determination of admission arrangements.

5. Background

Schools which are an admission authority in their own right must consult on their proposed admission arrangements where changes are proposed or every 7 years, whichever is sooner. Where admission authorities in Shropshire have proposed changes, the appropriate response has been made to ensure the needs of pupils within the Local Authority's area are met.

6. Additional Information

Schools wishing to increase their published admission number (PAN) are no longer required to consult on that change and the School Admissions Code makes it clear that the requests should be approved. However, a reduction in PAN still requires consultation. Some Shropshire maintained schools have declared increases to their PAN and these are shown below purely for information:

| Declaration of <u>Increase</u> in PAN | School Type | Existing PAN | New PAN | + / - |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Ellesmere Primary School | Community | 50 | 60 | +10 |
| Morda Primary | VC | 18 | 20 | +2 |
| Onny School | VA | 10 | 15 | +5 |
| Shifnal Primary | Community | 38 | 42 | +4 |
| Woodside Primary | Academy | 72 | 90 | +18 |

Grange School, part of the Shrewsbury Academy Trust, has proposed that for the academic year 2015/16, their PAN should be reduced from 125 to 95. This proposal was subject to formal consultation by the academy and Shropshire Council was a consultee of that process. The local authority advised, following a discussion at their recent Local Admissions Forum, that they were unlikely to support a reduction in the PAN as the secondary school places are required across the whole of Shrewsbury from September 2018. This is due to pupil numbers already in the primary school system. A short term planning decision in the north of Shrewsbury at this stage would not assist in the medium to long term sufficiency planning for the town. Shropshire Council, as strategic commissioner of school places, has therefore raised an objection

to the proposal. However, the Council has fully endorsed the academy bid for EFA support to bridge their short term funding pressures, which will allow for ongoing discussions with the local authority about Shrewsbury place planning for September 2014 and beyond.

| Proposal for PAN | <u>Reduction</u> in | School Type | Existing PAN | New PAN | + / - |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Grange School | | Academy | 125 | 95 | -30 |

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| <p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p> <p>School Admissions Code 2012</p> <p>Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2014/15</p> <p>Parents’ Guide to Education in Shropshire 2014/15</p> |
| <p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</p> <p>Councillor Ann Hartley</p> |
| <p>Local Member</p> <p>All local members</p> |
| <p>Appendices</p> <p>Appendix A: Admission Arrangements 2014/15 available on Shropshire Council website (link) as issued in March 2012. (For 2015/16 calendar dates will be amended appropriately.)</p> <p>Appendix B: Timetable for Determined Admission Arrangements 2015</p> |