



## Committee and Date

Cabinet

Date: 8 February 2017

## **DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19**

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### **1. Summary**

The School Admissions Code 2014 requires consultation on admission arrangements every 7 years where no changes are proposed.

Shropshire Council, the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Shropshire, carried out a consultation last year on its admission arrangements for 2017/18 and these were determined by Cabinet on 10 February 2016.

The timetable for consultation and determination of arrangements for 2018/19 has been condensed recently due to changes in the School Admissions Code. Consultation must now be completed by 31 January and arrangements must be determined, or formally agreed, before 28 February. The admission arrangements are therefore brought to Cabinet for determination earlier than in previous years.

The arrangements for 2018/19 are largely unchanged, other than a proposed reduction to the published admission number (PAN) at one primary school, minor alignments of designated catchment areas and the unification of the designated catchment areas of three schools that are proposed to merge. A number of schools have proposed an increase to their published admission numbers (PANs) but there is no requirement to consult on such changes. It is only proposed reductions that are subject to consultation.

Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2018/19 took place between 16 December 2016 and 27 January 2017. The Local Admissions Forum has approved the proposed arrangements. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the Council's admission arrangements for the 2018/19 academic year.

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's admission arrangements in the following respects:

- a) The merger of the designated catchment area of Hope, Worthen and Westbury Primary Schools;

- b) The rationalisation of the designated secondary school catchment areas for individual properties at Hope Bagot, Hemford and Roughton;
- c) The reduction of the Published Admission Number of St Giles CE Primary School, Shrewsbury.

2.2 That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2018/19 without further amendment to those determined in February 2016.

2.3 That Cabinet agrees to the publication of the approved admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2018/19 in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

## **REPORT**

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

If determination of admission arrangements does not take place before the specified date, Shropshire Council would not be compliant with the appropriate legislation as an admission authority. This determination will ensure that admissions arrangements are considered fair and that parents have sufficient time to challenge arrangements they consider to be unlawful or unfair. Objections to admission arrangements for 2018 must be made by 15 May 2017 for the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to make decisions prior to the application year.

### **4. Financial Implications**

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

### **5. Background**

#### **5.1 The amalgamation of Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Mary's CE Primary School Westbury.**

The amalgamation of Hope CE Primary School, Worthen CE Primary School and St Mary's CE Primary School Westbury is the subject of formal closure proposals following Cabinet's decision to proceed on 21 December 2016. This will result in the consolidation of provision onto the current Worthen CE Primary School site in the academic year 2017/18, and the closure of the sites at Hope and Westbury. The merger of the three designated catchment areas is part of this proposal. (See Map A.)

Responses from consultees have been positive for this community-led proposal. Only one response was received specifically regarding the catchment area consultation. This suggested that children from the Gritt and Shelve area should be part of the Stiperstones CE Primary School catchment because it is closer than Worthen CE School. This suggestion would impede the community's vision to unite the three school populations and would have an impact on pupils' entitlement to school transport to the Worthen site. The merger of the three catchment areas is therefore recommended to Cabinet.

5.2 The rationalisation of the designated secondary school catchment areas for individual properties at Hope Bagot, Hemford and Roughton.

The Local Authority has identified 3 minor catchment anomalies where individual properties have been separated from the rest of a hamlet and the secondary school catchment area boundary has deviated from that of the primary school. The following adjustments will correct the anomalies:

Hope Bagot (Ludlow/Lacon Childe)- Map B

1 property to transfer from Ludlow CE School to Lacon Childe's catchment area.

Hemford (Bishops Castle Community College/Mary Webb School) – Map C

3 properties to transfer from the catchment area for Mary Webb School to that of Bishops Castle Community College.

Roughton (Bridgnorth Endowed/Oldbury Wells) – Map D

1 property to transfer from Oldbury Wells School to Bridgnorth Endowed School's catchment area.

Individual occupants of affected properties, the appropriate parish council and the relevant schools are consultees to the above proposals. All responses to the consultation have been supportive of the proposals and no objections have been received. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.

5.3 The reduction of the Published Admission Number of St Giles CE Primary School, Shrewsbury.

St Giles CE Primary School in Shrewsbury has proposed the reduction of their published admission number (PAN) from 46 to 45. This would reduce the school's intake to exactly one and a half forms of entry which would enable the school to better manage the organisation of classes. No responses have been received to the consultation and this change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.

All the proposed changes are recommended to Cabinet and the admission arrangements in entirety are recommended for approval.

5.4 Where schools propose increases to their PAN, the current School Admissions Code makes it clear that these requests should be approved without the need to consult on changes. However, where a reduction is proposed to PANs, the admission authority must consult on the proposed changes and their admission arrangements in entirety. Shropshire Council will respond as appropriate to proposed reductions to PANs.

There are no proposals to increase PANs for 2018/19. However, as indicated above, St Giles CE Primary School has proposed a reduction to their PAN from 46 to 45:

<b>Proposed <u>Reduction</u> in PAN</b>	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Existing PAN</b>	<b>New PAN</b>	<b>+ / -</b>
St Giles CE Primary School Shrewsbury	Community	46	45	-1

5.5 Shropshire schools that are an admission authority in their own right must also consult on proposed admission arrangements where changes are proposed or every 7 years, whichever is sooner. Shropshire Council is a consultee in these circumstances. Where admission authorities in Shropshire have proposed changes, the Local Admissions Forum has recommended a response, if considered appropriate, to ensure the needs of pupils within the Local Authority's area are met.

Shrewsbury Academy in Shrewsbury is an admission authority school. The Trust are consulting on a proposal to reduce their PAN from 237 to 187, a reduction of 50 places per year group. Shropshire Council is a consultee to this proposal and, as local authority for the area, has a statutory responsibility for place planning. There is evidence to show that the 50 places that would be lost in each year group are required in the north of the town and so the local authority has raised an objection to this proposal. The objection has the support of the Local Admissions Forum.

<b>Proposed <u>Reduction</u> in PAN</b>	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Existing PAN</b>	<b>New PAN</b>	<b>+ / -</b>
Shrewsbury Academy, Shrewsbury	Academy	237	187	-50

No other proposals have been received.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

School Admissions Code 2014 (available from [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk))

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2017/18 (available from [www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions))

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2017/18 (available from [www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions))

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Councillor David Minnery

**Local Member**

All local members

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2018/19

Map A – Proposed merger of Hope, Westbury and Worthen catchment areas.

Map B - Hope Bagot transfer from Ludlow to Lacon Childe's catchment area.

Map C – Hemford transfer from Mary Webb to Bishops Castle Community College.

Map D - Roughton transfer from Oldbury Wells Bridgnorth Endowed School.

