



Committee and Date

Shropshire Council Cabinet

Date: 25 March 2015

Item

7

Public

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2016/17

Responsible Officer Karen Bradshaw - Director of Children's Services

e-mail: karen.bradshaw@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: (01743) 254201 Fax (01743) 254310

1. Summary

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

No significant changes are proposed to the arrangements for 2016/17. However, one voluntary controlled school (Trinity CE Primary School, Ford) proposes a decrease to its Published Admission Number (PAN) and in these circumstances the School Admissions Code stipulates that a formal consultation on admission arrangements must take place. Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements took place between 19 December 2014 and 13 February 2015. The Local Admissions Forum has approved the proposed arrangements. Admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements for 2016/17 by 15 April 2015. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the change to the Council's admission arrangements for the 2016/17 academic year.

2. Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the proposal to reduce the PAN at Trinity CE Primary School in Ford from 25 to 23;
2. That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements as determined in April 2014 without further amendment;
3. That Cabinet, by agreeing to the above, determines the school admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2016/17 in accordance with the School Admissions Code;
4. That officers notify the Secretary of State by 15 April 2015 that Shropshire Council has determined its school admissions arrangements for the 2016/17 academic year.

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 is in order to ensure that admissions arrangements are fair and that parents have sufficient time to challenge arrangements they consider to be unlawful or unfair. Objections to admission arrangements for 2016 must be made by 30 June 2015 for adjudicators 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

Trinity CE Primary School in Ford, a voluntary controlled school, has proposed a reduction in their PAN from 25 to 23. The governing body has made this request in an attempt to establish more certainty with regard to the Reception intake. Fluctuation in numbers on roll has led to variation in staffing requirements and classroom organisation. If the change is approved, the school would be able to plan class organisation and staffing levels more effectively. No responses to the consultation have been received about the proposed change and the local authority has no reason to oppose the request. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet and the admission arrangements are recommended for approval.

Shropshire schools which 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 responded, if considered appropriate, to ensure the needs of pupils within the Local Authority's area are met.

6. Additional Information

Whilst other Shropshire maintained schools have declared increases to their PAN, the new School Admissions Code makes it clear that these requests should be approved without the need to consult on changes. For information only, other Shropshire schools which have indicated their intention to increase their PAN are as follows:

Declaration of <u>Increase</u> in PAN	School Type	Existing PAN	New PAN	+ / -
Thomas Adams School	VC	203	208	+5
Morville CE Primary School	Academy	10	12	+2
Selattyn CE Primary School	VC	12	13	+1

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)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2015/16 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2015/16 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Ann Hartley

Local Member

All local members

Appendices

Admission Arrangements 2016/17

Timetable for admission arrangements 2016/17.