



Committee and Date

Cabinet

Date: 10 February 2016

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017/18

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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 2016/17 and these were determined by Cabinet on 25 March 2015.

The timetable for consultation and determination of arrangements has been condensed 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 have therefore been brought to Cabinet for determination earlier this year than in previous years.

The arrangements for 2017/18 are largely unchanged, apart from a proposed enhancement to the secondary school catchment area for Craven Arms residents. Where changes to arrangements are proposed, the School Admissions Code requires a formal consultation to take place.

Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2017/18 took place between 16 December 2015 and 31 January 2016. The Local Admissions Forum has approved the proposed arrangements. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the change to the Council's admission arrangements for the 2017/18 academic year.

2. Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's designated catchment area for secondary school applicants resident in the Craven Arms area.
2. That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2017/18 as determined in March 2015 without further amendment.
3. That Cabinet, by agreeing to the above, determines the school admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2017/18 and to the

required publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

4. That officers notify the Secretary of State by 28 February 2016 that Shropshire Council has determined its school admissions arrangements for the 2017/18 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 determination will 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 2017 must be made by 15 May 2016 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

At the secondary phase of their education, residents of Craven Arms have been able to access free school transport to both Ludlow CE School and Church Stretton School, due to an historic arrangement. The cost differentiation for the local authority in providing transport from Craven Arms to either school is negligible, but the arrangement needs to be reviewed to bring it in line with Shropshire Council's School Transport Policy.

For the secondary phase of education, the town of Craven Arms currently falls within the designated catchment area of Ludlow CE School. Stokesay Primary School in Craven Arms is a nominated feeder-linked primary school for pupils who wish to transfer to Ludlow CE School. It is proposed that this close relationship should continue, that the area should remain as part of the Ludlow CE School designated catchment area and that Stokesay Primary School should continue as one of their feeder-linked primary schools.

In November 2014, Stokesay Primary School converted to academy status as part of the South Shropshire Academy Trust with Church Stretton School. A close working relationship has consequently developed between these two schools. It is therefore reasonable to propose an enhancement to the catchment areas which will reflect this dual situation in the respective admission arrangements.

In recognition of the unique situation of Craven Arms, Shropshire Council proposes that the catchment area of Stokesay Primary School in Craven Arms is designated jointly to Ludlow CE School and Church Stretton School at the secondary phase of

education. This proposal will enable the residents of Craven Arms to continue to access free transport to either school. The area to be designated as a joint area is marked in red in the map at Appendix B.

No responses to the consultation have been received about the proposal. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet and the admission arrangements in entirety are recommended for approval.

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 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 Pupil Admission Number (PAN), the current 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	+ / -
Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury	Foundation	30	34	+4
Hinstock Primary	Community	15	17	+2
Mount Pleasant Primary School, Shrewsbury	Community	34	38	+4
St Peter's CE Primary School, Wem	Voluntary Controlled	55	60	+5

Where a reduction is proposed to published admission numbers, the admission authority must consult on their admission arrangements in entirety. Martin Wilson School in Shrewsbury is a foundation school and therefore an admission authority. The governing body has proposed a reduction to their PAN from 34 to 30 and they are consulting on that proposal.

<u>Reduction</u> in PAN	School Type	Existing PAN	New PAN	+ / -
Martin Wilson School, Shrewsbury	Foundation	34	30	-4

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 2016/17 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2016/17 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor David Minnery

Local Member

All local members

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2017/18

Appendix B - Map of change to Ludlow and Church Stretton designated catchment areas