



Committee and Date

Cabinet

14 February 2018

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

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1. Summary

- 1.1 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 on its admission arrangements last year for 2018/19 and these were determined by Cabinet on 8 February 2017.
- 1.2 In accordance with the School Admissions Code, consultation for 2019/20 must be completed by 31 January 2018 and arrangements must be determined before 28 February 2018. The admission arrangements are therefore brought to this Cabinet.
- 1.3 The arrangements for 2019/20 are largely unchanged, other than changes to published admission numbers (PANs) and minor alignments of designated catchment areas. A number of schools have proposed an increase to their PAN but there is no requirement to consult on such changes. It is only proposed reductions that are subject to consultation.
- 1.4 Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2019/20 took place between 15 December 2017 and 26 January 2018. The Local Admissions Forum has recommended the proposed arrangements. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the change to the Council's admission arrangements for the 2019/20 academic year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's admission arrangements, namely:
 - The rationalisation of the designated secondary school catchment areas for properties at Bomere Heath, Hoptonheath, Clunbury, Cockshutt, Morville, Pennerley and Stanwardine.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2019/20 without further amendment to those determined in February 2017.

2.3 That Cabinet, by agreeing to the above, determines the school admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2019/20 and to the required publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

2.4 That officers notify the Secretary of State by 28 February 2018 that Shropshire Council has determined its school admissions arrangements for the 2019/20 academic year.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

3.1 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 2019/20 must be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2018 for adjudication to be complete prior to the application year.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Background

5.1 The local authority has identified 7 minor anomalies where individual properties are served by a different secondary school catchment area to the rest of the primary school catchment area. This has implications for children at secondary transfer when their designated catchment school is different to their neighbours and peers at primary school. This issue was raised when a family moved within the same primary catchment area but found that their designated catchment secondary school was different. Individual occupants of affected properties, the appropriate parish/town council and the relevant schools are amongst the consultees to the proposals. The following adjustments would correct the identified anomalies:

5.2 Bomere Heath (Shrewsbury/Corbet) - Map A

5.2.1 3 properties to transfer from the Shrewsbury catchment area to Corbet School catchment area.

5.2.2 *Three responses have been received; one from Bomere Heath primary school and one from the Corbet School to offer their support. The other response was from the clerk to Shrewsbury Town Council whose committee members found the proposal*

to be sensible. No other responses have been received. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.

5.3 Hoptonheath (Clunbury /Bucknell Primary) – Map B

5.3.1 17 properties to transfer from the Clunbury Primary School catchment area to Bucknell Primary school catchment.

5.3.2 *There have been three letters in response to the proposal. Two residents within the affected area were concerned about the likelihood of securing places at their preferred secondary school. The individual circumstances were investigated in answer to consultees and it was confirmed that the proposal would not have an adverse effect on the respective families.*

5.3.3 *Clungunford Parish Council wrote to confirm that that they have no objection to the proposal or that of Map C.*

5.3.4 *The headteacher of Bishop's Castle Community College asked about transport entitlement for existing pupils and their siblings in this group and also those affected in Maps C and F. Assurances have been given.*

5.3.5 *No other responses have been received. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.*

5.4 Clunbury (Ludlow School/Bishop's Castle Community College) – Map C

5.4.1 17 properties to transfer from Ludlow School catchment to Bishop's Castle Community College catchment area.

5.4.2 *For those residents of this area, Bishop's Castle Community College will become the designated catchment school. Ludlow CE School will remain closer by a fraction on distance. This will offer a choice of schools to local residents and no one would be disadvantaged.*

5.4.3 *The headteacher of Bishop's Castle Community College made enquiries as for Map B, Clungunford Parish Council responded as for Map C and Hopesay Parish Council have no objection to the proposal. No other responses have been received. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.*

5.5 Cockshutt (Lakelands Academy/Thomas Adams School) – Map D

5.5.1 30 properties to transfer from Thomas Adams School catchment to Lakelands Academy catchment area.

5.5.2 *For those residents of this area, Lakelands Academy will become the designated catchment school. Thomas Adams School will remain closer by a fraction on distance. This will offer a choice of secondary schools to local residents and no one would be disadvantaged.*

- 5.5.3 *Nine responses have been received; five in favour and four opposed. The opposing responses relate to residents in the area wishing to retain the option of attending Thomas Adams School, something that would still be possible after this amendment.*
- 5.5.4 *One objection suggests that all primary children in the area should be automatically enrolled at Newtown Primary School, which would not be permissible under admissions legislation as parental preference is paramount. Another response suggests that the primary catchment should transfer from Cockshutt CE Primary School to Newtown CE Primary School. This had not been proposed in consultation and it would be illogical to extend the catchment of Newtown CE Primary School, which is near to capacity when Cockshutt CE Primary School, the existing catchment primary school, is able to accommodate the pupils.*
- 5.5.5 *Thomas Adams School has opposed the proposal because they believe it would reduce the number of pupils attending. In fact a number of the residents have responded to say they wish to continue to attend Thomas Adams and, as this is their nearest school, the transport entitlement would continue.*
- 5.5.6 *A resident of the area strongly supports the proposed change to this catchment boundary which would remove a disadvantage to their family. This proposal also has the support of Cockshutt CE Primary School, Loppington Parish Council, Cockshutt Parish Council and the local member*
- 5.5.7 *For all residents of this area, the alteration would provide more choice in secondary schools, not less and the reservations expressed would not materialise..*
- 5.5.8 *This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.*

5.6 Morville (Bridgnorth Endowed/William Brookes School) – Map E

- 5.6.1 12 properties to transfer from William Brookes School catchment to Bridgnorth Endowed School catchment area.
- 5.6.2 *For those residents of this area, Bridgnorth Endowed will become the designated catchment school. William Brookes School will remain closer on distance. This will offer a choice of schools to local residents and no one would be disadvantaged.*

Four responses have been received. Two opposed to the proposal relate to residents in the area having the option to transfer to William Brookes School. The amendment to the catchment boundary would not prevent this happening and responses have been sent to this effect. One response from a landlord firstly objected but this was subsequently reversed to support when the situation was fully explained.

- 5.6.3 *One response from the chairman of trustees of an estate firstly objected to the proposal, but this was subsequently reversed to their support when the situation was fully explained. The local member made enquiries about the impact of this amendment and after hearing the details, agreed with the proposal. This proposal also has the support of Much Wenlock Town Council.*

5.6.4 *No other responses have been received and this change is recommended to Cabinet.*

5.7 Pennerley (Bishop's Castle Community College/Mary Webb) – Map F

5.7.1 4 properties to transfer from Bishop's Castle Community College catchment to Mary Webb School catchment area.

5.7.2 *Other than the enquiry from the headteacher of Bishop's Castle Community College as for Map B, no other responses have been received.*

5.8 Stanwardine (Corbet School/Lakelands Academy) – Map G

5.8.1 5 properties to transfer from Lakelands Academy catchment to Corbet School catchment area.

5.8.2 *The Corbet School have offered their support to the proposal. Other than the enquiry from the headteacher of Bishop's Castle Community College as for Map B, no other responses have been received. This change is therefore recommended to Cabinet.*

5.8.3 Although there have been a number of concerns raised in response to the proposals, these have been made in the belief that parental preference would be detrimentally affected. In fact there would be more options for parents under these proposals and in order to allay concerns, this has been communicated to respondents to the consultation. Individual consultation responses can be viewed by contacting Shropshire Council's Admissions Team.

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

5.8.5 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.

5.8.6 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.

6. Additional Information

6.1 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 responds as appropriate to proposed reductions to PANs.

6.2 There are two proposals to increase PANs for 2019/20:

Proposed <u>Increase</u> in PAN	School Type	Existing PAN	New PAN	+ / -
John Wilkinson Primary School,	Community	25	28	+3

Broseley				
Stottesdon CE Primary School	Academy	12	15	+3

6.3 Crowmoor Primary School in Shrewsbury is a Foundation school and therefore an admission authority school. The Trust are consulting on a proposal to reduce their PAN from 34 to 30 to enable better class organisation. Shropshire Council is a consultee to this proposal. Classroom accommodation can be brought back into use if there should be a requirement for additional places and so there are no objections to this proposal.

Proposed <u>Reduction</u> in PAN	School Type	Existing PAN	New PAN	+ / -
Crowmoor Primary School, Shrewsbury	Foundation	34	30	-4

6.4 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)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2018/19 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2018/19 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Nick Bardsley

Local Member

All local members

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2019/20

Map A – Bomere Heath transfer from Shrewsbury to Corbet catchment area.

Map B – Hoptonheath transfer from Clunbury to Bucknell catchment area.

Map C – Clunbury transfer from Ludlow to Bishop's Castle Community College catchment area.

Map D - Cockshutt transfer from Thomas Adams to Lakelands Academy catchment area.

Map E - Morville transfer from William Brookes to Bridgnorth Endowed School

catchment area.

Map F – Pennerley transfer from Bishop’s Castle Community College to Mary Webb School catchment area.

Map G - Stanwardine transfer from Lakelands Academy to Corbet School catchment area.