



Committee and Date

Cabinet

Date: 12 February 2020

Item

Public

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

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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 on its admission arrangements last year for 2020/21 and these were determined by Cabinet on 13 February 2019.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, consultation for 2021/22 must be completed by 31 January 2020 and arrangements must be determined before 28 February 2020. The admission arrangements are therefore brought to this Cabinet.

The only proposed amendment to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2021/22 is a change to the published admission number (PAN) of St. Lawrence CE Primary School in Church Stretton. Governors have proposed a reduction to their PAN from 36 to 34 to make capacity for a special educational needs resourced provision at the school. The proposal was initiated by governors and Shropshire Council is the admission authority for the school, but the local authority is in agreement to the proposal. The amendment is subject to the statutory process for consultation on admission arrangements.

Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2021/22 took place between 11 December 2019 and 24 January 2020. 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 2021/22 academic year.

2. Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's admission arrangements, namely:
 - To decrease the published admission number of St. Lawrence CE Primary School in Church Stretton from 36 to 34.

2. That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2021/22 without further amendment to those determined in February 2019.
3. That Cabinet, by the determination of the school admission arrangements for Shropshire Council for the academic year 2021/22, agrees to the publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.
4. That officers notify the Secretary of State by 28 February 2020 that Shropshire Council has determined its school admissions arrangements for the 2021/22 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 parents have sufficient time to consider the fairness of admission arrangements and can challenge arrangements they consider to be unlawful or unfair. Any objections to admission arrangements for 2021/22 must be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2020 for adjudication to be complete prior to the application year.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Climate Change Appraisal

- **Energy and fuel consumption**

The only change to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements is to St. Lawrence CE Primary School in Church Stretton. There is no impact on the heating and energy bills at the school because the accommodation is already in use. There is potential to reduce the need to travel by offering SEN facilities in the locality rather than requiring pupils to travel longer distances to provision elsewhere. This is dependent upon the home address of pupils allocated places at the resourced provision.

- **Renewable energy generation**

The transfer of places from overall capacity to make way for a Special Educational Needs resourced provision at St. Lawrence CE Primary School will result in no opportunities to generate renewable energy

- **Carbon offsetting or mitigation:**

The annual determination of school admission arrangements offers no opportunities to offset or mitigate carbon emissions through such measures.

- **Climate Change adaptation:**

A Special Educational Needs resourced provision in Church Stretton has the potential to offer facilities in the locality rather than requiring pupils to travel longer distances to provision elsewhere. This is dependent upon the home address of pupils allocated the SEN places.

6. Background

The only change proposed to Shropshire Council's arrangements for 2021/22 which requires consultation is a change to the PAN of St. Lawrence CE Primary School in Church Stretton. The reduction will make capacity for a special educational needs resourced provision at the school. The proposal was initiated by governors but Shropshire Council is the admission authority for the school. Shropshire Council is satisfied that the school will still be able to meet the forecast demand for places, even with this reduction in capacity.

No further changes are proposed to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements. No responses have been received in relation to these arrangements.

7. Additional Information

When proposals are made to alter admission arrangements of Shropshire schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority, Shropshire Council must be consulted.

Proposed amendments to Shropshire's own admission authority school arrangements (for information) are as follows:

- **St. Mary's Bluecoat Primary School** in Bridgnorth proposed the removal of faith-based criteria from their policy.
- **Stottesdon Primary School** proposed the addition of children of staff to their policy.
- **St. Martin's School** proposed the addition of children of staff as a new criterion in their policy.
- **Marches Academy Trust** proposed changes to align the policies of schools that have recently joined the Trust, namely **Grange Primary, Longlands Primary, Lower Heath Primary** and **Shrewsbury Academy**.
- **Woodfield Infants, St. Georges Junior** and **Market Drayton Junior schools** proposed the addition of siblings at their linked infant/junior schools to their criteria.
- **Lydbury North Primary** and **Onny Primary** proposed the removal of faith-based criteria from their policies.
- **Meole Brace School** proposed the addition of a category for Shrewsbury residents whose nearest Shrewsbury secondary school is Priory School and second nearest Shrewsbury secondary school is Meole Brace School to their policy.
- **Priory School** proposed that the category of children of staff is raised to a higher priority.

No other proposals have been received.

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.

Public consultation has taken place on the above changes and any responses have been shared with the appropriate admission authorities. The relevant schools will be required to determine their own arrangements by 28 February 2020.

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 2020/21 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2020/21 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Edward Potter

Local Member

All local members

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2021/22