



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Cabinet	
8 February 2021	
	<u>Public</u>

## DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022-2023

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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 In accordance with the School Admissions Code, consultation for 2022/23 must be completed by 31 January 2021 and arrangements must be determined before 28 February 2021. The admission arrangements are therefore brought to this Cabinet.
- 1.2 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 2021/22 and these were determined by Cabinet on 12 February 2020.
- 1.3 In addition to minor changes linked to the designated catchment area for the new Bowbrook Primary School, the only other proposed change to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2022/23 is a change to the published admission number (PAN) of Stiperstones CE Primary School, now co-located with Norbury Primary School. Governors proposed a reduction to their PAN from 8 to 7 to ensure that numbers in Key Stage 1 remain within the infant class size legislation. 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.
- 1.4 Consultation on Shropshire Council's admission arrangements for 2022/23 took place between Friday 11 December 2020 and Monday 25 January 2021. The Local Admissions Forum at its meeting on 28 January has recommended the proposed arrangements. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve the change to the Council's admission arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposal to amend the local authority's admission arrangements, namely:
  - To decrease the Published Admission Number of Stiperstones CE Primary School from 8 to 7.

- To amend the designated catchment area of Bowbrook Primary school as set out in the attached plan at Appendix B

2.2 That Cabinet approves the admission arrangements for 2022/23 without further amendment to those determined in February 2020.

2.3 That Cabinet agrees to the publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2014.

## **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 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 2022/23 must be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2021 for adjudication to be completed 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 only changes proposed to Shropshire Council's arrangements for 2022/23, which require consultation, are to the published admission number (PAN) of Stiperstones CE Primary School, and slight amendments to the primary catchment boundary in the west of Shrewsbury which have arisen as a result of the definition of a catchment area for the new primary school in Bowbrook which will open in September 2022.

5.2 Stiperstones CE Primary School is co-located with Norbury Primary School, and to accommodate pupils in compliance with the infant class size regulations, governors proposed a reduction to the PAN from 8 to 7. Shropshire Council is satisfied that the school will still be able to meet the forecast demand for places, even with this reduction in capacity.

5.3 The 3-18 Education Trust was only confirmed as the sponsor for the new primary school in Bowbrook after the consultation on admission arrangements began. Shropshire Council therefore proposed the admission arrangements and the designated catchment area for the new school on behalf of the Trust. The new school will grow from the first Reception intake year on year and so properties within the Bowbrook area will have a joint catchment area with the existing catchment school and the new primary school. This will ensure that every Bowbrook property has a school with an active year group as the new primary school increases its operational year groups each year.

5.4 In defining the new Bowbrook catchment area, it was considered an appropriate time to align the western town primary school catchment boundary with the Shrewsbury by-pass. (See map attached.) This change affects 6 properties as follows:

- 1 from Oxon CE Primary School to Bicton CE Primary School and Nursery
- 1 from St Thomas & St Anne CE Primary School, Hanwood, to Radbrook Primary School
- 4 from Oxon CE Primary School to St Thomas & St Anne CE Primary School, Hanwood

Along with the standard publication of the annual consultation on admission arrangements, each of the residents of the 6 properties above and 915 Bowbrook residents affected by the proposals, were contacted individually to advise them of the proposal and to invite them to take part in the consultation.

No responses have been received to the consultation on any of the proposed changes.

5.5 No further changes are proposed to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements.

## 6. Additional Information

The following is for information only.

6.1 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.

6.2 Proposed amendments to arrangements for own admission authority schools in the Shropshire area are as follows:

Schools proposing the addition of '**children of staff**' criterion to their policy:

- Coleham Primary School
- Holy Trinity Academy, Oswestry
- Mereside Academy, Shrewsbury
- Norbury Primary School and Nursery
- The Wilfred Owen School, Shrewsbury
- Belvidere School, Shrewsbury
- Meole Brace School, Shrewsbury
- Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury.

6.3 Other proposed changes are:

- Marches Academy Trust to align the policy of Oakmeadow CE Primary School with the other Trust policies.
- Whitchurch CE Infant and Junior schools to add siblings at their linked infant/junior schools to their criteria.
- New admissions arrangements for the new school int Bowbrook
- Thomas Adams School to alter their Boarding House policy to enable them to continue to offer 5 boarding places after National Offer Day.

- Corvedale CE Primary is proposing additional faith criteria.
- Bishop Hooper CE Primary is removing their faith criterion.
- Our Lady & St Oswald's Catholic Primary, Weston Lullingfields CE Primary and Whittington CE Primary consulted on their unchanged policy as they have not done so in the previous 7 years.

No other proposals have been received.

- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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 2021.

**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 2021/22 (available from [www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions))

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2021/22 (available from [www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions))

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Councillor Edward Potter

**Local Member**

All members

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2022/23

Appendix B – Map of changes to catchment boundaries in west of Shrewsbury.