



Committee and Date

Cabinet

16 February 2022

Item

Public

DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023-2024

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1. Synopsis

In light of the recommendations of the Local Admissions Forum, and in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and The School Admissions Regulations 2012, approval is sought from Cabinet to formally determine the admission arrangements 2023-2024 for Shropshire Council's community and voluntary controlled schools.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required. This must be completed by 28 February in the determination year.
- 2.2. The School Admissions Code 2021 requires consultation on admission arrangements every 7 years if no changes have been proposed in that period. Shropshire Council, the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Shropshire, carried out a consultation last year on admission arrangements for 2022-2023 and these were determined by Cabinet on 8 February 2021. In accordance with revised national legislation, these were re-determined by Cabinet on 21 July 2021.
- 2.3. With no changes proposed to the arrangements for 2023-2024 to those previously determined in July 2021, and with consultation having taken place within the last 7 years, no consultation was required in this determination year.
- 2.4. The admission arrangements for 2023-2024, considered by the Local Admissions Forum at their meeting on Wednesday 1 December 2021, are therefore recommended to Cabinet for approval and formal determination.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet formally determine the admission arrangements 2023-2024 for Shropshire's community and voluntary controlled schools.
- 3.2. That Cabinet, by the determination of the school admission arrangements 2023-2024, agrees to the publication of the arrangements in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and to the notification of this to parties specified in the Code.

REPORT

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. If determination of admission arrangements does not take place before 28 February 2022, Shropshire Council would not be compliant with the appropriate legislation as an admission authority.
- 4.2. These arrangements are unchanged from those determined in 2021, which were subject to public consultation, when all parties and communities, specified in the School Admissions Code, were given the opportunity to consider their impact.
- 4.3. Formal determination and publication of these arrangements will ensure that parents and communities have the opportunity to further consider the impact. If a party considers the arrangements to be unlawful or unfair, there is the opportunity to object to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2022 for adjudication to be completed prior to the application year.

5. Financial Implications

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

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no anticipated climate change implications from the proposals within this report, though the authority continues to work with school leaders, governors and trustees on the opportunities for

applying carbon reduction measures in the operation of their schools.

7. Background

- 7.1. All admission authorities must determine their admission arrangements, including their published admission number (PAN), every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not been required.
- 7.2. Shropshire Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in the local authority area. The only schools of this type in Shropshire Council's area are primary-phase schools.
- 7.3. All secondary schools in Shropshire Council's area are academies or foundation schools and so the relevant academy trust or governing body is the admission authority and therefore responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.
- 7.4. Transfer round applications, for the point of entry to all primary and secondary schools, must still be co-ordinated by the local authority and the co-ordination scheme is set out in Shropshire Council's admission arrangements.
- 7.5. No changes are proposed to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements 2023-2024 from those determined last year. Consultation on the arrangements was therefore not required, but a formal determination by Shropshire Council must now take place by 28 February 2022.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. Shropshire Council must be consulted separately by admission authorities who are proposing changes to their own admission arrangements.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Once the arrangements have been determined by Cabinet, they will be published on Shropshire Council's website by 15 March 2022. Any objections to the arrangements can then be lodged with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2022. This will fulfil Shropshire Council's mandatory responsibilities in accordance with admission regulations.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

School Admissions Code 2021 (available from www.education.gov.uk)

Shropshire Council Determined Admission Arrangements 2022/23 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2022/23 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Kirstie Hurst-Knight

Local Member

All local members

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council Admission Arrangements 2023-2024

