

**Committee and Date****Cabinet****12th February 2025**

Item

Public



Determination of Admission Arrangements 2026-27

Responsible Officer:		David Shaw
email:	David.shaw@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel: 01743 256479
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):		Kirstie Hurst-Knight

1. Synopsis

- Following recommendations from the Local Admissions Forum, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 and The School Admissions Regulations 2012, approval is sought from Cabinet to determine admission arrangements 2026-27 for Shropshire Council's community and voluntary controlled schools.

2. Executive Summary

- Shropshire Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Shropshire. As such, it must determine its admission arrangements for school pupils every year, even if they have not changed from previous years and a consultation has not, therefore, been required. This must be completed by 28 February in the determination year.
- The School Admissions Code 2021 requires consultation on admission arrangements every 7 years if no changes have been proposed in that period. Shropshire Council most recently carried out a consultation in 2023-24 on admission arrangements for 2025-26 and these were determined by Cabinet on 21 February 2024.

- 2.3. One significant change to in-year admissions and two minor changes to published admission numbers (PANs) are proposed for the arrangements for 2026-27. Consequently, Shropshire Council was required to formally consult again on their admission arrangements in entirety.
- 2.4. It is a legal requirement for consultation to have taken place between 1 October 2024 and 31 January 2025 for 6 weeks and for the arrangements to then be determined by Cabinet before 28th February 2025. The timetable for consultation and determination of admission arrangements have been met by Shropshire Council.
- 2.5. The admission arrangements for 2026-2027, considered and approved by the Local Admissions Forum at their meeting on Wednesday 27 November 2024, are therefore recommended to Cabinet for approval.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That Cabinet determine the proposed admission arrangements 2026 - 2027 for Shropshire's community and voluntary controlled schools as set out in Appendix A to this report and further approves the publication of those 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 2025, Shropshire Council would not be compliant with the appropriate legislation as an admission authority.
- 4.2. These arrangements were subject to public consultation, when all parties and communities, specified in the School Admissions Code, were given the opportunity to consider their impact. Consultation took place between 4 December 2024 and continued for more than 6 weeks until 22 January 2025.
- 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 2025 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. The annual transfer round applications, for the point of entry to Reception in primary, Year 3 in junior and Year 7 in 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. Shropshire Council are proposing the addition of staff criteria to the oversubscriptions criteria for all Shropshire community and voluntary controlled schools. Priority will be given to children of staff at the school in either or both of the following circumstances; a) where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made; and/or b) the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post at the school for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. The proposal brings benefits to schools to help secure staff and provides a more consistent approach across the county where many own admission authority schools include staff criteria in their oversubscription criteria.
- 7.6. The proposed amendment to Shropshire Council's admission arrangements are as follows: Broseley CE Primary School is proposing a reduction to its Published Admission Number from 36 to 30. Chirbury CE Primary School is proposing to increase its Published Admission Number from 12 to 15.

- 7.7. Consultation on the arrangements for 2026-2027 was therefore required, and a formal determination by Shropshire Council must now take place by 28 February 2025.

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 2025. Any objections to the arrangements can then be lodged with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2025. 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 2025/26 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Parents' Guide to Education in Shropshire 2025/26 (available from www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

Local Member: All Members

Appendices

Appendix A – Shropshire Council [Draft](#) Admission Arrangements 2026-2027