

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Executive to be held on 31 January 2023

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Subject:

Determination of Primary and Secondary Admission Arrangements

Summary statement:

This report asks the Executive to determine the admission arrangements including:

- To approve the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2024/25.
- To approve the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for Primary, Secondary and In-Year Admissions for 2024/25.
- To note the 'own admission authority schools' proposing changes to their admission policies for 2024/25.
- To note Published Admission Numbers for 2024/25.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

There is no anticipated impact on equality as the School Admissions Code 2021 requires compliance with the Equalities Act and any changes must comply with the Code.

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Portfolio:

Education, Employment and Skills

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report asks the Executive to determine the admission arrangements including:

- To approve the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for entry to school in September 2024/25.
- To approve the Co-ordinated Admission Schemes for entry to school in September 2024/25 for Primary, Secondary and In-Year Admissions.
- To note the 'own admission authority schools' proposing changes to their admission policies for entry to school in September 2024/25.
- To note Published Admission Numbers for entry to school in September 2024/25.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Admission Arrangements for entry to school in 2024/25:

2.1.1 All schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places available. Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities.

2.1.2 The Local Authority is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in the area. As such, the Local Authority is required to determine admission arrangements for the schools by complying with the relevant statutory procedures. Voluntary Aided, Foundation Schools and Academies are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

2.1.3 When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on the admission arrangements that will apply for admission applications in the following academic year. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least every 7 years.

2.1.4 All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements every year even if they have not changed from the previous year and consultation has not been required.

2.1.5 Admission authorities must determine admission arrangements for entry in 2024 by 28 February 2023 (even if consultation has not taken place).

2.1.6 There are no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for community or voluntary controlled schools in Bradford and therefore a consultation has not been undertaken.

2.1.7 The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and Secondary schools for 2024/25 are shown in Appendix A and B.

2.2 Co-ordinated Schemes

2.2.1 A co-ordinated scheme sets out how the local authority will co-ordinate offers to all schools in the area to ensure every child receives one offer of a school place. The co-ordinated admissions schemes for primary schools, secondary schools and in-year admissions can be found in Appendices C, D and F.

2.2.2 There are no amendments to the proposed to the co-ordinated schemes for 2024/25.

2.3 Published Admissions Numbers (PANs)

2.3.1 The PAN is number of school places that the admission authority must offer in each relevant age group of a school for which it is the admission authority. Admission numbers are part of a school's admission arrangements.

2.3.2 Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for Primary and Secondary Schools for entry in September 2024 are shown in Appendix G.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Own admission authority schools

A number of own admission authority schools have consulted on changes to their admission policies. Details can be found on individual school websites and will be published on the Bradford Council website in the Autumn term, see Appendix E. Own admission authorities must also consult with other admission authorities including the Local Authority. Where the Local Authority does not support the changes outlined in the individual consultations we will formally feedback to the school/academy or MAT the Local Authorities position. In the case of PAN reductions, we do not support any reductions that would interfere with the Local Authorities statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places.

This is based on the projected numbers for basic need which ensures we have sufficient school places to offer places to every Reception and Yr7 child due in school in September 2024, enabling us to meet our statutory duty, as reported to the DfE in the SCAP return.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 Schools receive funding through the Fair Funding Formula which allocates funding to schools based on the number of pupils attending the school.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1 There are no identified risks.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 The local authority is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in the area and is required to determine arrangements for those schools by complying with the relevant statutory procedures. Voluntary aided, foundation, trust schools and academies are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements.

- 6.2 In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 when changes are proposed to admission arrangements for entry in September 2024, all admissions authorities must consult on their admission arrangements. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every seven years even if there have been no changes during that period. Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year
- 6.3 In accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021 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, by 28 February in the determination year.
- 6.4 Once admission authorities have determined their admission arrangements, they must notify the appropriate bodies and must publish a copy of the determined arrangements on their website by 15 March in the determination year and continue displaying them for the whole school year in which offers for places are made.
- 6.5 As part of determining their admission arrangements all admission authorities must set a PAN for each 'relevant age group'
- 6.6 Own admission authorities are not required to consult on their PAN where they propose to either increase or keep the same PAN. For a community or voluntary controlled school, the local authority (as admission authority) must consult at least the governing body of the school where it proposes to either increase or keep the same PAN. All admission authorities must consult where they propose a decrease to the PAN. Own admission authorities must notify the local authority of their intention to increase the school's PAN and reference to the change should be made on the school's website.
- 6.7 Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website by 1 January in the relevant determination year, a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late application for all publicly funded schools within their area. Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years even if there have been no changes during that period. Following any such consultation, which must be undertaken with a view to ensuring the admission of pupils in different local authorities is, as far as reasonably practicable, compatible with each other, the local authority must determine the qualifying scheme and must take all reasonable steps to secure its adoption. A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have secured the adoption of the qualifying scheme by 28 February in the determination year.

There is no requirement for local authorities to co-ordinate in-year applications for schools for which they are not the admission authority. They may, however, co-ordinate in-year applications for any or all own admission authority schools in their area with the with the agreement of the relevant admission authority. Local

authorities must publish information on their website by 31 August at the latest each year to explain how in-year applications can be made and how they will be dealt with from September onwards in that year. This includes setting out which schools they will co-ordinate the applications for and which schools will manage their own in-year admissions.

- 6.7 Paragraph 3.6 of the School Admissions Code 2021 provides that once admission arrangements have been determined for a particular school year they cannot be revised by the admission authority unless such revision is necessary to give effect to a mandatory requirement of the Code, admissions law, a determination of the Schools Adjudicator or any misprint in the admission arrangements.
- 6.8 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all pupils in its area.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Admission arrangements must not discriminate directly or indirectly against any group or individual.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The proposals would not impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications from this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7.6 TRADE UNION

No implications for Trade Unions.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

No implications for Ward Councillors.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

No implications for children and young people.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

General Data Protection Regulation principles relating to individuals' data and rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 will be respected.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 None.

9. OPTIONS

9.1 In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code:

9.1.1 To approve the Primary and Secondary Admission Arrangements

9.1.2 To approve the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme

9.1.3 To approve the In-Year Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Executive approve the Primary and Secondary Admission Arrangements.

10.2 That the Executive approve the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

10.3 That the Executive approve the In-Year Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme.

10.4 That the Executive note the proposed changes to the admission arrangements for own admission schools listed in Appendix E.

10.5 That the Executive note the Published Admission Numbers contained in Appendix G.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools 2024/25

11.2 Appendix B: Admission Arrangements for Community Secondary Schools 2024/25

11.3 Appendix C: Co-ordinated admission scheme for primary schools 2024/25

11.4 Appendix D: Co-ordinated admission scheme for secondary schools 2024/25

11.5 Appendix E: Own Admitting Authorities Consulting on Changing Admissions Policies

11.6 Appendix F: Co-ordinated admissions scheme for In Year Applications and Mid-Term Policy 2024/25

11.7 Appendix G: School Published Admission Numbers (PANs)

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

12.1 School Admissions Code 2021.