

17 March 2014**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2015-2016****Purpose of the report**

1. This report makes recommendations, following statutory consultation, to enable Committee to determine the following, as detailed in **Appendix 1**:
 - arrangements for the admission of pupils to Nottinghamshire voluntary controlled and community schools
 - Nottinghamshire County Council's coordinated arrangements for the normal admission round
 - Nottinghamshire County Council's non-statutory coordinated scheme for applications to Nottinghamshire schools outside the normal admission round (in-year admissions)
 - catchment area changes outlined in Section 4 of the arrangements. In order to ensure fairness for all families resident on this new development and in the previously unallocated areas of land, these changes will take immediate effect.

Information and advice

2. All admission authorities must determine arrangements by 15 April every year, even if there have been no changes from previous years and consultation has not been required.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council, as the local authority, is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.
4. The County Council is also responsible for coordinating admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools in its area. These requirements are described in the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 and the School Admissions Code (SAC) 2012 which are available from the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk.
5. The statutory responsibility for local authorities to coordinate admissions outside the normal round (in-year admissions) was removed for admissions from 1 September 2013. In response, Nottinghamshire County Council established an in-year coordinated scheme

for Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools with an option for own admission authority schools to participate.

Statutory annual consultation

6. Where changes to admission arrangements are proposed, all admission authorities must consult for a minimum of eight weeks between 1 November and 1 March in the determination year on the admission arrangements for those schools for which they are responsible (School Admissions Code 2012, paragraph 1.42 – 1.50)
7. Nottinghamshire County Council consulted on 2015-2016 admission arrangements between 1 December 2013 and 31 January 2014.
8. The consultation was available for the full period at:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation15-16.
9. Information about where to access the consultation was sent in advance to:
 - all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
 - all own admission authority schools in Nottinghamshire
 - chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools (where the chair's email was known to the authority)
 - all neighbouring local authorities
 - diocesan representatives
 - all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire.
10. In addition, an advert was published in the local press immediately prior to the consultation opening, to notify other persons in the relevant area who have an interest in the proposed arrangements that the document was available.
11. Consultees were invited to respond by completing an online form, emailing or writing to the County Council. All responses received by 31 January 2014 were considered and no objections were received.

Additional information

12. Section 4.1 of the consultation document included details of the expansion of Beardall Street Primary School catchment area. This is part of a wider review that closes on 28 March 2014 and does not form part of the determination of Nottinghamshire's admission arrangements.

Other Options Considered

13. No other options were considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to determine Nottinghamshire County Council's admission arrangements by 15 April 2014.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

16. Over 25,000 families express a school preference each year. In drawing up their admission arrangements, Nottinghamshire County Council ensures that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Nottinghamshire County Council determines the proposed admission arrangements for 2015-2016, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, including:
 - published admission numbers as detailed in Section 1 of the arrangements
 - admission oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools in Section 2
 - Nottinghamshire County Council's coordinated schemes in Section 3.
 - catchment area changes outlined in Section 4 of the arrangements. In order to ensure fairness for all families resident on this new development and in the previously unallocated areas of land, these changes will take immediate effect.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 20/02/14)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KLA 21/02/14)

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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