

22 February 2016

Agenda Item 6

REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND INCLUSION

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2017-2018

Purpose of the report

1. This report makes recommendation, following statutory consultation, to enable Committee to determine the following, as detailed in the **Appendix**:
 - arrangements for the admission of pupils to Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools
 - Nottinghamshire County Council's qualifying scheme (admissions to a relevant age group)
 - Nottinghamshire County Council's in-year coordinated scheme for applications to Nottinghamshire schools outside the normal admission round (in-year admissions).

Information and advice

2. All admission authorities must determine arrangements by 28 February 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 admission 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) 2014 which are available from the Department for Education website www.education.gov.uk.
5. The County Council continues to operate an in-year coordinated scheme for 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 six weeks between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year on the admission arrangements for those schools for which they are responsible (School Admissions Code 2014, paragraph 1.42 – 1.50).

7. Nottinghamshire County Council consulted on 2017-2018 admission arrangements between 1 October and 30 November 2015. The consultation was available for the full period at:
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/admissions/admissionsconsultation17-18/
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Consultees were invited to respond by emailing or writing to the County Council. All responses received by 30 November 2015 were considered.

Other options considered

11. No other options were considered.

Reason/s for recommendation/s

12. To enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to determine Nottinghamshire County Council's admission arrangements by 28 February 2016.

Statutory and policy implications

13. 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

14. Over 25,000 families express a school preference each year. In drawing up these 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 2017-2018, as detailed in the **Appendix**, including:
 - published admission numbers as listed 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.

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Constitutional Comments (SMG 19/01/16)

15. The proposals set out in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 15/01/16)

16. 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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